





BR 516.5 .P5 1929  
Phelan, Macum, 1874-  
Handbook of all  
denominations









LIBRARY OF PRINCETON  
MAR 30 1929  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# HANDBOOK

OF ALL

# Denominations

*Compiled by*  
M. PHELAN

---

*FIFTH EDITION*



NASHVILLE, TENN.  
COKEBURY PRESS  
1929

COPYRIGHT 1929  
BY  
LAMAR & WHITMORE

---

*Printed in the United States of America*

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE TO FIFTH EDITION.....	vii
ADVENTISTS.....	1
Advent Christians.....	4
Church of God.....	5
The Churches of God in Christ Jesus.....	5
Life and Advent Union.....	5
Seventh-Day Adventists.....	2
AMERICAN RESCUE WORKERS.....	215
ANGELUS TEMPLE.....	5
APOSTOLIC CHURCH.....	103
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH.....	103
APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION.....	103
APOSTOLIC OVER-COMING HOLY CHURCH OF GOD.....	103
ARMENIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.....	7
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, GENERAL COUNCIL.....	103
BAHAIS, OR "BABISM".....	8
BAPTISTS.....	8
Baptist Church of Christ.....	43
Free Baptists.....	41
Freewill Baptists.....	42
General Baptists.....	42
Independent Baptist Church of America.....	47
Landmark Baptists.....	46
Old School, or Primitive, Baptists.....	44
Regular Baptists.....	46
Separate Baptists.....	43
Seventh-Day Baptists.....	41
Six-Principle Baptists.....	41
Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian.....	45
United Baptists.....	43
BRETHREN CHURCHES.....	48
Dunkards.....	48
Plymouth Brethren.....	52
River Brethren.....	53



# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

	PAGE
CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC (IRVINGITES).....	53
New Apostolic Church.....	55
CATHOLICS.....	55
CHRISTADELPHIANS.....	56
CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE.....	56
CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION.....	103
<b>CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH</b> .....	60
CHRISTIANS, OR CHRISTIAN CONNECTION.....	57
CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS.....	61
Divine Science Church.....	67
CHRISTIAN UNION CHURCHES.....	67
CHURCH OF CHRIST, HOLINESS.....	103
CHURCH OF DANIEL'S BAND.....	104
CHURCH OF GOD.....	104
<b>CHURCH OF GOD (Headquarters Anderson, Ind.)</b> .....	104
CHURCHES OF GOD (THE WINEBRENNERIANS).....	68
CHURCH OF GOD AND SAINTS OF CHRIST (COLORED)....	70
CHURCH OF GOD, AS ORGANIZED BY CHRIST.....	104
CHURCH OF GOD, HOLINESS.....	105
CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (SWEDENBORGIAN)...	71
CHURCH TRANSCENDENT.....	105
CHURCHES OF THE LIVING GOD (COLORED).....	70
COLORED METHODIST BODIES.....	141
COMMUNISTIC SOCIETIES.....	73
Amana Society.....	73
Shakers, or the Millennial Church.....	74
CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH.....	105
CONGREGATIONALISTS.....	76
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.....	81
EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH.....	93
EVANGELICAL CHURCH.....	96
EVANGELICAL SYNOD (GERMAN).....	98
FREE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST.....	105
FRIENDS.....	99
HEPZIBAH FAITH ASSOCIATION.....	105
HOLINESS BODIES (EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATIONS).....	102
HOLINESS CHURCH.....	105

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

	PAGE
JEWISH CONGREGATIONS.....	107
LATTER-DAY SAINTS, OR MORMONS.....	110
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.....	120
LUMBER RIVER MISSION.....	105
LUTHERANS.....	121
MENNONITES.....	125
MESSIANIC WORLD MESSAGE.....	127
METHODISTS.....	128
Other Methodist Bodies.....	155
Colored Methodist Bodies.....	155
METROPOLITAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION.....	105
MILLENNIAL DAWNISTS, OR RUSSELLITES.....	157
MISSIONARY BANDS OF THE WORLD.....	106
MISSIONARY CHURCH ASSOCIATION.....	106
MORAVIANS (UNITAS FRATRUM).....	160
NAZARENES (CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE).....	164
PENIAL MISSIONS.....	106
PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD.....	106
PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH.....	106
PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH.....	106
PILLAR OF FIRE.....	106
PRESBYTERIANS.....	165
Associate Church of North America.....	182
Associate Reformed Synod of the South.....	182
Cumberland Presbyterian, Colored.....	181, 182
Cumberland Presbyterians.....	178
General Synod of the Presbyterian Church.....	182
Presbyterian Church, U. S.....	177
Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.....	176
Reformed Presbyterian Synod.....	182
United Presbyterian Church.....	181
PROTESTANT EPISCOPALIANS.....	185
Reformed Episcopal Church.....	191
REFORMED BODIES.....	192
Christian Reformed Church.....	195
Hungarian Reformed.....	196
Reformed Church in America.....	194

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

	PAGE
Reformed Church in the United States.....	195
ROMAN CATHOLICS.....	196
Old Catholics.....	210
Uniate Churches.....	211
Liberal Catholic Church.....	212
SALVATION ARMY.....	212
American Rescue Workers.....	215
Volunteers of America.....	215
SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES.....	216
SCHWENCKFELDERS.....	216
SOCIAL BRETHREN.....	217
SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE.....	218
SPIRITUALISTS.....	218
THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES.....	221
UNITARIANS.....	221
UNITED BRETHREN.....	225
UNIVERSALISTS.....	228
VEDANTA SOCIETY.....	231
VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY SOCIETY.....	107



## PREFACE TO FIFTH EDITION

THE first edition of this HANDBOOK was brought out in 1915, and was undertaken because the author had been unable to find any single volume in the field of denominational literature which filled his own wants. There were encyclopædias, to be sure, through which one might range in search of a single fact; and there were many large volumes on the history or doctrinal position of particular Churches. There was also a work or two in which all denominations were treated, but there was little or no attention given in these to the Old World origins and present connections of our various American denominations. It is enough to say, therefore, that the present volume was projected along lines which best filled the wants of the one preparing it. The reception accorded the first edition was really surprising, and the continued demand for the work has encouraged the author to revise it from time to time, to correct errors, for which he is continually on the lookout, and to keep it up to date by making such changes in statistical and other matter as will show the growth and other developments in the Church world.

The sources of information used have been so varied and of such an extent that detailed references

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

cannot be made. In the preparation of the original volume the publications of Dr. H. K. Carroll and those of the United States Census Bureau were the basic authorities consulted, especially in regard to the smaller denominations. But wherever available the publications of the various denominations themselves, on their own history, doctrines, and work, were always consulted.

In the work of the present revision large use has been made of the Bulletins of the United States Census Bureau, containing statistics and other information gathered during the census of religious bodies taken in 1926. These statistics, while not so late as those obtainable from denominational year-books of more recent date, are of especial value and interest because of the tabulation of Church membership by States.

This fifth edition has been more completely revised in its statistical matter than any previous edition, and it is to be hoped that it will meet the needs of the public in a still more satisfactory degree than any former volumes.

M. PHELAN.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF., January 1, 1929.

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

## ADVENTISTS

THIS is the general name of a family of denominations whose leading tenet is a belief in the proximate and personal second coming of Christ. The movement began in Massachusetts in 1831, under the leadership of William Miller, who previously had been a member of the Baptist Church. As a result of much study of the prophecies, Miller became convinced that the second coming of Christ was near at hand, and he began to lecture on the subject. In 1833 he published a pamphlet entitled "Evidences from Scripture and History of the Second Coming of Christ about the Year 1843 and of His Personal Reign of One Thousand Years." Miller made many converts to his views, and the doctrine announced in his pamphlet was widely proclaimed. Upon the failure of his prophecy for the year 1843, he fixed 1844—to be exact, October 22 of that year—as the date of the second advent. When this prophecy failed, his followers became divided. It is estimated that at the time of Miller's death (1849) they numbered 50,000. As a result of various divisions, there are now six bodies of Adventists,



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

who, as a rule, simply await the second coming of Christ without attempting to fix a date for it. All hold, however, that it is near at hand, and they generally look for the personal reign of Christ on earth. All agree also in practicing immersion as the mode of baptism. The following bodies represent the present divisions of Adventism:

**1. Seventh-Day Adventists.**—These constitute the largest and best organized body of Adventists. The branch was organized in New Hampshire in 1845 by a company of Miller's followers, who adopted the belief that the seventh day of the week should be observed as the Sabbath. They hold that all the dead sleep in unconsciousness until the resurrection—a doctrine popularly known as "soul-sleeping"—when the righteous will be raised to eternal life and the wicked destroyed. Foot-washing is practiced among them. Members are expected to contribute a tenth of their income to the support of the Church. Local congregations are presbyterian in government. Congregations are organized into conferences, and these send representatives to a general conference, which meets quadrennially. There are no settled pastors, but traveling evangelists visit the various congregations. The Seventh-Day branch, in common with other branches, devotes much attention to questions of diet and health, and they have built a number of sanitariums. The head-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

quarters of the denomination were formerly at Battle Creek, Mich., but in 1903 were removed to Washington, D. C., where publishing interests are maintained. The membership is most numerous in the States of Michigan, California, Kansas, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin, in the order named; but adherents are found in smaller numbers in nearly all the States. Missionary work is carried on in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. The denomination has colleges at Berrien Springs, Mich., St. Helena, Calif., College View, Nebr., Walla Walla, Wash., and Washington, D. C.; also a medical college at Loma Linda, Calif., and theological seminaries at LaGrange, Ill., Clinton, Mo., and Hutchinson, Minn.

The following statistics are from U. S. Census Bureau reports for 1926:

	Churches.	Membership.
Alabama.....	20	740
Arizona.....	9	579
Arkansas.....	19	706
California.....	198	18,429
Colorado.....	63	3,169
Connecticut.....	13	489
Delaware.....	6	270
District of Columbia.....	4	1,441
Florida.....	44	2,630
Georgia.....	19	1,056
Idaho.....	32	1,186
Illinois.....	60	4,170
Indiana.....	55	2,421
Iowa.....	79	2,651
Kansas.....	61	2,259
Kentucky.....	20	1,013
Louisiana.....	10	536
Maine.....	16	532
Maryland.....	20	1,598

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

	Churches.	Membership.
Massachusetts.....	36	2,146
Michigan.....	138	7,955
Minnesota.....	66	3,237
Mississippi.....	18	568
Missouri.....	37	2,326
Montana.....	25	872
Nebraska.....	51	2,635
New Hampshire.....	7	177
New Jersey.....	42	1,721
New Mexico.....	9	221
New York.....	81	5,271
North Carolina.....	33	1,189
North Dakota.....	52	2,017
Ohio.....	66	3,467
Oklahoma.....	47	2,642
Oregon.....	69	4,936
Pennsylvania.....	73	4,794
Rhode Island.....	6	336
South Carolina.....	17	423
South Dakota.....	30	1,439
Tennessee.....	38	2,082
Texas.....	52	3,011
Utah.....	6	190
Vermont.....	13	352
Virginia.....	29	941
Washington.....	93	6,063
West Virginia.....	10	492
Wisconsin.....	79	3,185
Wyoming.....	8	310
Other States.....	2	125
Total.....	1,981	110,998

2. **Advent Christians.**—Formed in 1861. They agree with the Seventh-Day body in holding that the dead are unconscious and that the wicked will be destroyed. But they observe Sunday as the Sabbath. They are strongest in the New England States, the headquarters being at Boston, Mass., where a publishing house and a theological seminary are situated. Statistics: Churches, 444; mem-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

bership, 29,410. This body is strongest in the States of North Carolina (membership, 4,165), West Virginia (2,765), Florida (2,323), Maine (2,132), and Massachusetts (2,540).

**3. Church of God.**—A branch of the Seventh-Day Adventists seceded in 1866 in protest against accepting Mrs. Ellen G. White as an inspired prophetess. The body has its center at Stanberry, Mo. Statistics: Churches, 58; members, 1,686. The membership is found mainly in Missouri (669 members) and Oklahoma (249).

**4. The Life and Advent Union.**—A small New England body, existing since 1848. Statistics: Churches, 7; members, 535.

**5. The Churches of God in Christ Jesus.**—Known also as Age-to-Come Adventists. They believe in the restitution of all things, with Christ enthroned as king on earth. They are found chiefly in the Middle West. Statistics: Churches, 86; members, 3,528 (Ohio, 510; Indiana, 412; Illinois, 380, with a scattering membership in a dozen other States).

Statistics of all Advent bodies, by U. S. Religious Census of 1926: Churches, 2,576; members, 146,157.

---

### AMERICAN RESCUE WORKERS

(See under Salvation Army.)

---

### ANGELUS TEMPLE

THE Angelus Temple, in Los Angeles, Calif., is the center of a new religious movement originated

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

and carried on by Mrs. Aimee Semple McPherson. Mrs. McPherson was born in Canada in 1890. Her mother was a Salvation Army worker, and the daughter grew up in an atmosphere of public evangelistic work. At the age of seventeen she was converted by Robert Semple, a traveling evangelist, and she soon afterwards married Semple and went with him on a mission to China. Semple died in China, and the widow returned to the United States. She later married Harold McPherson. She engaged in tent revival services, moving from place to place, which caused an estrangement and a separation from her husband. McPherson obtained a divorce on the grounds of desertion. Mrs. McPherson came to Los Angeles in 1919 and began preaching in a small upstairs mission. Her sermons began to attract such crowds that the hall was soon outgrown. She moved her revival services from hall to hall and finally announced plans for a church of her own. These culminated in the erection of Angelus Temple, at a cost of \$600,000, raised by popular subscriptions. The building has a seating capacity of five thousand. A radio broadcasting station has been installed, giving the evangelist an unlimited audience for her sermons and programs.

Mrs. McPherson and her helpers, including her mother, carry on the services at the Temple, which include preaching, "healing," testimony and Bible study meetings. She denominates her work as the

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

"Four-Square Gospel," the four elements emphasized being: conversion; divine healing; baptism of the Holy Ghost, including "tongues"; and the pre-millennial return and reign of the Lord. An "International School of Four-Square Evangelism" is conducted, which graduated fifty-five students in 1926. Branches of the McPherson movement have been established in other Southern California towns. The evangelist claims a following of twenty-five thousand persons.

---

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(See under Holiness Bodies.)

---

### ARMENIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

THIS is an American branch of the national Church in Armenia, composed only of Armenians who have settled in this country. There are fourteen parishes in America, each under the supervision of a priest, and an Armenian bishop, primate of the Church in America, resides in Boston. In faith the Armenians, with some minor variations, are in harmony with the faith of the Eastern Orthodox Churches (*q. v.*). Statistics: Ministers, 17; churches, 34; members, 27,450.

---

### ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

(See under Holiness Bodies.)

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

## BAHAIS, OR "BABISM"

THIS is a sect of Mohammedanism, originating in Persia in 1844, under the leadership of Ali Mohammed, who proclaimed himself the "Bab" (Arabic for door or gate). The movement stands for the universal brotherhood of man, the unity of all religions, and world-wide peace. There is an organization in the United States, with national officers and an annual convention. There are reported 57 "churches" and 2,884 members.

---

## THE BAPTISTS

PREPARED BY E. P. ALLDREDGE, A.M., D.D.

### Origin and Succession of Baptists

"BAPTISTS," according to Dr. George W. McDaniel, sometime president of the Southern Baptist Convention, "are justly proud of their parentage—the New Testament. They have an ancient and Scriptural origin. Certain characters in history are named as founders of various denominations: the Disciples began with Alexander Campbell, the Methodists with John Wesley, the Presbyterians with John Calvin, the Lutherans with Martin Luther, and the Church of England with Henry VIII and Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer in the reign of Edwin VI. Not so with the Baptists. There is no personality this side of Jesus Christ, who is a satisfactory explanation of their origin. . . . We originated, not at the Reformation, nor in the Dark Ages,



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

nor in any century after the apostles. . . . Our principles are as old as Christianity, and we acknowledge no founder but Christ." ("The People Called Baptists," \* pp. 12, 13.)

And while no competent Baptist historian assumes to be able to trace a succession of Baptist Churches all through the ages, most of them are of one accord in holding that the true faith of the gospel has never been lost and that, if we could secure the records, there would be found heroic groups of believers in every age who upheld with their testimonies, and in many cases with their lives, all the basic and distinctive principles of the Baptist Churches of our day. Says Dr. John T. Christian: "At times these principles have been combated and those who held them sorely persecuted; often they have been obscured; sometimes they have been advocated by ignorant men and at other times by brilliant graduates of the universities; . . . yet always, and often under the most varied conditions, these principles have come to the surface. . . . They are like the river Rhone, which sometimes flows as a river, broad and deep, while at other times it is hidden in the sands. It, however, never loses its continuity or existence. . . . The footsteps of the Baptists of the ages can more easily be traced by blood than by baptism. It is a lineage of suffering rather than a succession of bishops; a martyrdom of principle

---

\* "The People Called Baptists," by George W. McDaniel. The Baptist Sunday School Board, Publishers. Used by permission.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

rather than a dogmatic decree of councils; a golden chord of love rather than an iron chain of succession." ("History of the Baptists," \* p. 22.)

### The Baptist Name

"The term Baptist, as applied to a denomination of Christians," affirms Dr. A. H. Newman, "is of comparatively modern origin. Its German equivalent (Täufer) was commonly applied by Zwingli and his associates to the Anti-pedobaptists of the early Reformation time as expressive of their conviction that these radicals were laying undue stress on believers' baptism. The terms 'Anabaptist' and 'Catabaptist' were likewise employed by the opponents of the Anti-pedobaptists. The Anti-pedobaptists of the sixteenth century never, so far as I am aware, adopted any of these designations, being content to call themselves *Christians, Apostolic Christians, Brethren, Disciples of Christ, Believing Baptized Children of God*, etc. English Anti-pedobaptists did not adopt the term Baptist as a denominational name until some time after the middle of the seventeenth century, while they earnestly repudiated the designation *Anabaptist*, which their opponents sought to fasten on them with its worst continental implication.

### Baptists and the Early Christian Centuries

"The apostolic age was not completed before grave errors had invaded the Churches. No part of the

---

\* "A History of the Baptists," by John T. Christian. Baptist Sunday School Board, Publishers. Used by permission.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Christian system suffered earlier or more lamentable perversion than the ordinance of baptism. It would be going too far to assert that no individuals or Churches from the second century onward perpetuated the New Testament doctrine and practice regarding the nature, subjects, and significance of baptism in its purity and integrity; but it is certain that for centuries we meet with no distinct assertion (or record) of what we regard as the New Testament position. *The nearest approach to this position we find in the Paulician movement in Armenia, which we have some reason to believe perpetuated from apostolic times until the nineteenth century uncompromising hostility to infant baptism, insistence on believers' baptism, and the general practice of immersion. . . .*

"The Paulician type of Christianity was propagated in Europe from the ninth century onward and was no doubt one of the elements of influence in the widespread evangelical movement represented by the Petrobrusians and the Henricians (first half of the twelfth century), the Arnoldists, the Waldenses, etc. The Petrobrusians and the Henricians, of whom we have only very meager information, are represented by their opponents as rejecting infant baptism, insisting on believers' baptism, and repudiating with the utmost vehemence all extra-Biblical forms and ceremonies and all paganizing superstitions that had found place in the dominant forms of Christianity. . . .

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

### Baptists and the Anabaptists

"Many of the so-called Anabaptists of the sixteenth century (of whom there were at least five distinct groups) had much in common with modern Baptists. These earnest strivers for the restoration of primitive Christianity were in part a result of the logical carrying out of the earlier and more radical teachings of Luther and Zwingli. As medieval dissent was of many types, including along with the quiet and moderate Waldenses and Bohemian Brethren the drastic millenarianism of the Taborites, the ascetical millenarianism of heretical offshoots from the Franciscan Order, evangelical mysticism, pantheistic mysticism as seen in the Brethren of the Free Spirit, rationalistic Humanism, evangelical Humanism, etc.; so we find among the radicals of the Reformation time, who for the most part agreed in repudiating infant baptism and in insisting on the baptism of believers, all these phases of religious and philosophical thought blended in almost every imaginable way. In Nicholas Storch and the Zwickau Prophets and in Hans Hut we have a perpetuation of the Taborite millenarianism. In Melchior Hofmann the Franciscan type of millenarianism reappears, degenerating in the hands of Jan Matthys, John of Leyden, Bernhard Rothmann, and Kipperdolinck . . . into the wild extravagances of Munster. In Hübmaier and the great majority of the Swiss Anabaptists we see the perpetuation of the most evangelical form of Waldensianism, strengthened by evangelical Humanism. In



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

the Moravian Anabaptists we see the principles of the most consistent of the Bohemian Brethren carried out under favorable circumstances to their logical consequences. . . .

"Most of the Anabaptists of the various parties carried separatism to an extreme, refusing not only to partake of the Supper with Pedobaptists of any type, but also declining to have any sort of religious or social intercourse with professed Christians who differed materially from themselves in their doctrines and practices. Nearly all of them (Hübmaier was an exception) followed medieval evangelicals in so understanding the New Testament as to exclude warfare, magistracy, oaths, and capital punishment from the sphere of things allowable to the Christian.

"The Anabaptist movement in its various phases was so widespread and aggressive and won to its support the masses of the people almost everywhere with such readiness as to justify the remark of Döllinger, a modern Catholic writer, that if Germany had not become Lutheran it would have become Anabaptist. Lutherans, Zwinglians, and Roman Catholics vied with each other in devising and executing exterminating measures against this widespread and determined effort to restore primitive Christianity, and, while they did not succeed in annihilating it, they greatly crippled it everywhere and by their violence drove multitudes to a fanaticism born of despair.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

### The Rise of the General Baptists

"In 1609 the members of a small Separatist congregation that had been gathered some years before at Gainsborough, England, by John Smyth, a university graduate and a man of marked ability, and . . . had taken refuge in Holland from the persecuting measures of James I, reached the conviction that the practice of infant baptism was not only inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the Separatists—namely, that of pure Church-membership, but was also completely without Scripture warrant and opposed to Scripture precept and example; and, that baptism and ordination received in the apostate Church of England were in any case to be repudiated. . . . Having abandoned their Church organization as unwarranted and repudiated the ordination of their minister, they proceeded to introduce baptism of believers anew and then to form an organization of baptized believers. Smyth took the initiative, first baptizing himself and then others. Better acquaintance with the Mennonites (one of the Anabaptist groups), . . . and further reflection on his recent proceedings in introducing baptism anew, led him to the conviction that he and his brethren had made a lamentable mistake in not seeking baptism and ordination at the hands of their Mennonite (Anabaptist) friends, who claimed to be the perpetuators of primitive Christianity. With a number of his adherents he was excommunicated for assuming this position by Thomas Helwys, John Morton, and others, who defended the inde-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

pendent introduction of baptism and earnestly opposed the idea that succession in the ordinances is necessary to their validity. . . .

"In 1611 Helwys, Morton, and their adherents reached the conviction that duty required them to return to England, bear their testimony, encourage true believers, and face whatever of persecution might await them there. They returned and by 1526 had at least seven small congregations, with an aggregate membership of about one hundred and fifty. It is to the honor of this body that from its membership went forth a body of clearly reasoned and well-written pleas for liberty of conscience that played an important part in the propagation of this great Baptist principle, Roger Williams and his contemporary advocates of the doctrine having been influenced thereby. . . .

### Early English Particular Baptists

"In May of 1640 Richard Blount, who seems to have become again a member of the original Church, of which Henry Jessey was now pastor, 'with him [apparently Jessey] being convinced of baptism, that it ought to be by dipping the body into the water, resembling burial and rising again, . . . had sober conference about it in the church, and then with some of the forenamed [probably members of Spilsbury's congregation], who also were so convinced; and after prayer and conference about their so enjoying it, . . . and hearing that some in the Netherlands had so practiced, they agreed and

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

sent over Mr. Richard Blount (who understood Dutch), with letters of commendation, who was kindly accepted there and returned with letters from them, Jo. Battle, a teacher, and from that Church to such as sent him.' We are informed that in 1641 two companies of Anti-pedobaptists that 'were persuaded baptism should be by dipping the body' were immersed. 'Mr. Blount baptized Mr. Blacklock, that was a teacher amongst them, and Mr. Blount being baptized, he and Mr. Blacklock baptized the rest of their friends that were so minded, and many being added to them they increased much.' . . .

"By 1643 there were in and around London seven Calvinistic (Particular) Baptist Churches, whose Confession of Faith, set forth to vindicate themselves from the odium that attached to the Anabaptist name, was first printed in 1644. Immersion is clearly set forth as the act of baptism. From the modern Baptist point of view the Confession is unobjectionable. By this time a French Baptist Church had entered into fellowship with the seven Calvinistic Churches, and its representatives also signed the Confession. From 1645 onward Henry Jessey exerted an influence probably unsurpassed by that of any of his brethren until his death in 1663. He was one of Cromwell's Tryers and filled an important endowed pastorate during the Cromwellian age, having been invited thereto by a majority of the parishioners.



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

### English Baptists During the Revolution, 1641-1689

"The Baptist cause greatly flourished during the revolutionary period. General and Particular Baptist Churches multiplied. Associations were formed in various parts of England and Wales for the purpose of strengthening the Churches by fraternal conference and facilitating missionary effort by concerted action. The parliamentary army was filled with Baptists, who were among the most enthusiastic advocates of civil and religious liberty and the sturdiest combatants of royal absolutism and priestcraft.

"Baptists were chiefly instrumental in preventing Cromwell from accepting the royal title, which some influential supporters urged him to do, and many of them strongly disapproved of his military government. -They were among those who labored zealously for the restoration of the Stuarts, having received from Charles II ample assurances of toleration.

"In common with other dissenters, they suffered severe persecution (1662-1675). Those who held benefices were deprived by the act of Uniformity (1662). Baptist work was greatly hampered by the Conventicle Act, the Five-Mile Act, etc. The Corporation and the Test Acts bore heavily upon many Baptists, as they were excluded from public employment and from the privileges of the universities, while it was open to their enemies to secure their election to public offices and then to subject them to heavy fines for refusal to qualify.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

It is greatly to the credit of English Baptists that while other dissenters frequently evaded the force of these acts by occasional conformity (partaking of the Supper in the Established Churches), only one Baptist is known to have compromised himself in this manner, and he was promptly excluded.

"It might have been expected that the Act of Toleration granted by William and Mary at the beginning of their reign would lead to a great expansion of the Baptist interest. But such was far from being the case. The long period of stress and strain would seem to have exhausted the energies of Baptists of both parties and to have left them in a state of lethargy. . . .

### Growth of English Baptists, 1689-1770

"The particular Baptists of England and Wales had begun to hold Association meetings for the furtherance of brotherhood and coöperative missionary work as early as 1651. In 1665 the Western Association, made up of Churches in the counties of Somerset, Wilts, Gloucester, and Dorset, feeling the need of a guiding head in connectional work, appointed and ordained Thomas Collier to the office of 'General Superintendent and Messenger to all the Associated Churches.' Collier had for ten years been active in evangelism and had acted unofficially as a superintendent and director of the labors of a number of evangelists. These Baptists were far from being extreme independents in their Church polity, and they no doubt

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

had more regard to immediate utility than to the permanent conservation of the autonomy of the Churches. The Confession of Faith set forth by this Association in 1656 breathes throughout the missionary spirit. It is affirmed (Article XXXIV) 'that as it is an ordinance of Christ, so it is the duty of his Church, in his authority to send forth such brethren as are fitly gifted and qualified through the Spirit of Christ to preach the gospel to the world.' In the following article the obligation to preach the gospel to the Jews is expressly recognized.

"The organized work of the denomination was largely in abeyance during the reign of terror (1662-1675). The Bill of Indulgence (1675), though intended primarily for the encouragement of Roman Catholicism, made it possible for Baptists once more to become aggressive and to take measures for the advancement of their cause. The Particular Baptist pastors of London at this time sent an earnest invitation to the Churches throughout England and Wales to send delegates to meet in London the following May to make arrangements for 'providing an orderly standing ministry in the Church, who might give themselves to reading and study, and so become able ministers of the New Testament.' . . . Such an assembly was held in 1677, when a Confession of Faith based upon the Westminster Confession was adopted. It was afterward approved by a still larger assembly in 1689 and has continued to be the favorite

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

symbolical document of English Baptists. It was adopted early in the eighteenth century, with certain modifications, by the Philadelphia Association and in this form exerted widespread influence on American Baptist life and thought. The assembly of 1689, after the promulgation of the Act of Toleration, was in many respects the most important ever held by English Baptists. The assembly was careful to 'disclaim any manner of superiority and superintendency over the Churches.' . . .

"One of the most aggressive and influential organizations among the English Baptists during the eighteenth century was the Society of Ministers of the Particular Baptist Persuasion, meeting at the Gloucestershire Coffeehouse, organized in 1724, which raised money for the assistance of needy Churches and ministers, for the distribution of religious literature, and for other religious and philanthropical purposes, passed upon the qualifications of candidates for the ministry, and took measures for the silencing of unworthy ministers. It led the denomination in efforts to secure the redress of grievances, undertook to defend the honor of the denomination when it was assailed from time to time, corresponded with Baptists in the American colonies, counseled them, extended to them financial aid when required, interceded with the home government on behalf of persecuted brethren in the colonies, and in many ways furthered the interests of the denomination at home and abroad. . . .



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

### Baptists and the Evangelical Revival

"The evangelical revival, led by the Wesleys and Whitefield, was of momentous importance to the Baptists, as it was to the Established Church and to the various dissenting bodies. . . .

"It was to Andrew Fuller, more than any other individual, that restoration of the Particular Baptist body to its original evangelical position was chiefly due. Brought up in an illiterate community, with few educational advantages, he came under the influence of the great evangelical (revival) movement. The writings of Jonathan Edwards, the great American theologian and evangelist, seem to have greatly aided him in coming to right conceptions of evangelical truth. Through his great activity as a preacher and writer, multitudes were brought to see the consistency between a true preaching of the doctrines of grace and the most earnest efforts for the salvation of sinners. His career as a leader extended over the last two decades of the eighteenth century and the first fifteen years of the nineteenth. Bristol College was greatly strengthened and brought to support this evangelical type of Calvinism.

"The inauguration of Baptist foreign missionary work (and the whole modern mission movement) under the leadership of William Carey and Andrew Fuller belongs to this period. It is probable that, while Fuller and his associates by their advocacy of missions accomplished so much for the heathen, even more resulted in the course of their

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

widespread visitation of the Churches throughout England and Scotland for the evangelization of the home Churches. The Baptist cause in Great Britain was by Fuller's public activity raised to a higher plane and gained a recognition at the hands of leaders of other denominations that had been wanting for some generations. The marvelous preaching of Robert Hall at Cambridge during the last decade of the century likewise contributed powerfully to the reputation and the influence of the denomination. . . .

### Baptist Beginnings in America

"The first in America to advocate Baptist principles, so far as we are informed, was Roger Williams. Born about 1600, educated at Cambridge (B.A. 1627), he became an ardent Nonconformist and at great personal sacrifice emigrated to New England to escape the persecuting measures of Archbishop Laud. During his pastorate at Plymouth he spent much time among the Indians, mastering their language and seeking to promote their moral and spiritual welfare. As pastor of the Salem Church (1634-1635) he became involved in local controversies and in controversies with the Massachusetts authorities. As advocating opinions 'dangerous to the common welfare' he was banished in 1635. He made his way amid winter's hardships and perils to Narragansett Bay, where he was joined by a number of Massachusetts sympathizers and founded a colony on the basis of

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

soul-liberty, which with the coöperation of John Clarke and others was developed into Rhode Island.

“By 1639 Williams had become convinced that infant baptism was unwarranted by Scripture and a perversion of a Christian ordinance, and with eleven others introduced believers’ baptism, and formed at Providence the first American Baptist Church (1639). . . . This Church, after Williams’ withdrawal, continued for years in an exceedingly weak state. The General Baptist type of teaching, with insistence on the laying-on of hands as an ordinance of Christ, came to prevail by 1652, and the opponents of this view withdrew to form a new congregation.

“The second American Baptist Church was that formed at Newport, about 1641, under the leadership of John Clarke. Clarke arrived at Boston in November, 1637, when persecuting measures were being inaugurated against Mrs. Anne Hutchinson and her followers on account of their Antinomian teachings. How far he sympathized with Mrs. Hutchinson’s views at this time we have no means of knowing. But he cast in his lot with the persecuted party and led them in seeking a new home in unsettled territory. Through the kindly offices of Roger Williams they secured from the natives a title to Aquidneck Island. Here they founded a government in which the headship of Christ was recognized and which was purely democratic in form. This colony united with Williams’ Provi-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

dence colony in procuring a charter in which civil and religious liberty was fully provided for. Clarke deserves quite as much credit as Williams for this feature of Rhode Island polity, and his services in England on behalf of the colony were quite as distinguished. For some time Clarke, who was physician and theologian as well as statesman, ministered to the entire community in religious things. About 1641 or earlier Clarke and a number of his fellow colonists became 'professed Anabaptists' and began to hold their meetings apart. In what form and under what circumstances they introduced believers' baptism we are not informed; but about 1644 Mark Lukar, who was among the English Separatists that were immersed in 1641, became a member of the Newport Church. If immersion was not practiced from the beginning, it was no doubt introduced on Lukar's arrival. The Newport Church was full of missionary zeal. Members of this body sought to form a Baptist Church at Seekonk, Mass., in 1649, but were thwarted by the authorities. . . .

"As already indicated, the Massachusetts government pursued a policy of extermination toward Baptists, and no permanent organization of Baptist life was allowed until late in the century. Henry Dunster, the first president of Harvard College (1640-1655), was obliged, under circumstances of great hardship, to relinquish his position because of his persistence in opposing the baptism of infants. In 1663 John Myles, a Welsh pastor,



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

emigrated to Massachusetts with his Church, secured a grant of land near the Rhode Island frontier, and established a settlement and Church, which they named Swansea. Here they enjoyed a considerable measure of freedom. The First Baptist Church of Boston was organized in 1665 and for years suffered grievously at the hands of the authorities.

"In 1682 a small band of Baptists, several of whom had been members of the Boston Church, formed an organization at Kittery, Me. Driven from Maine soon afterward, they settled in South Carolina and formed the Charleston Church about 1683. In the Quaker colonies, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Baptists appeared about 1682, and by 1707 at least six Churches had been organized. They were largely Welsh, but included a considerable number from New England. The Philadelphia Association was formed in 1707 and became a chief means of extending and conserving Baptist influence. As late as 1729 there were in New England only three Calvinistic Baptist Churches, while there were two Sabbatarian and thirteen General Baptist Churches. The latter had for some time held annual Associational meetings. The Charleston Church had also come under Arminian influence and had been almost wrecked by internal strife. It is not probable that the entire Baptist membership in America much exceeded five hundred at the beginning of the Great Awakening (1734). . . .

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

"In New England many Separate or 'New Light' Congregational churches were formed by reason of the opposition of ministers and churches to the revival (known as the Great Awakening), and some of these 'New Light' Churches came to feel that their demand for regenerate membership logically involved the abandonment of infant baptism and accordingly accepted the Baptist position. In some cases whole congregations, with their pastors, became Baptist; in other cases Churches were divided, . . . and in a few years the evangelistic Baptists were greatly in the majority in New England and throughout the South.

"The excessive enthusiasm of the Separate Baptists was everywhere tempered by the conservative missionary influence that emanated from the Philadelphia Association. Highly educated men went forth in every direction from the Philadelphia body. Hezekiah Smith as evangelist, financial agent for the college, pastor, and army chaplain disseminated the Philadelphia influence throughout New England and elsewhere. The influence of this body, exerted persistently and through many channels, broke down the middle wall of partition between Baptists of the old and new types and at last secured everywhere Associational organizations and aggressive denominational life.

"In Virginia Separate Baptists led in the glorious struggle for civil and religious liberty (1775-1799) and secured the coöperation of the Regulars. The two parties united in 1785. The Virginia

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Baptists were largely instrumental in securing religious liberty for all and at last in compassing the disestablishment of the Episcopal Church and the confiscation of its glebe lands, etc. To them also was due in part the ample provision for liberty of conscience in the United States Constitution. In New England, Separate Baptists, like Backus, coöperated with Baptists of the Philadelphia type, like Manning, Smith, Davis, and Stillman, in an equally heroic but less successful struggle for absolute religious liberty and equality. The services of American Baptists in the cause of civil and religious liberty are acknowledged by scholars of other denominations." ("A Century of Baptist Achievement," \* by A. H. Newman, pp. 1-18.)

### **Baptist Progress in the Nineteenth Century**

Baptists made phenomenal progress during the nineteenth century. In the year 1800, for example, the Baptists of America had only 1,100 churches, about 1,250 ordained ministers, and approximately 100,000 members. There was not a single State convention in America; the Massachusetts Missionary Baptist Convention (which was the first State convention in America) did not come into existence until 1802. Besides being divided into Regular Baptists, Free Will Baptists, Seventh Day Baptists, and Six Principle Baptists, the Baptist forces of America had no denominational or-

---

\* "A Century of Baptist Achievement," by A. H. Newman. American Baptist Publication Society, Publishers. Used by permission.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ganization, save that of the district associations—about sixty in number. Of these sixty associations, moreover, forty-eight comprised all the regular Baptist forces of America, and ten of these were distinctly anti-missionary in their outlook and attitude. There were no hospitals, no orphanages, no publication societies, no Baptist journals, no theological schools, few educated ministers, and but one small struggling Baptist college in America—Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island.

Outside of America, moreover, there were fewer than 50,000 Baptists in the whole world. In fact, if we include the Baptists of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and a few scattered Baptists on the Continent, we have the following summary of Baptists in the world in 1800 A.D.—viz., associations, 84; churches, 1,575; ordained ministers, 1,649; and church members, 145,370.

By the year 1900, on the other hand, Baptists had penetrated practically every nation on earth, and their numbers had increased from 145,370 to 5,391,003, of which number 4,635,719 were in America and 755,284 were in the other nations of earth.

This phenomenal growth in numbers, however, was in large part due to the consummation of the outstanding Baptist achievement of the ages—*complete religious liberty and, in America, complete separation of Church and state*. For while much had already been accomplished toward this age-long contention of Baptists, and toleration had been granted in many countries, nevertheless when the nineteenth century

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

dawned, full religious liberty was unknown anywhere in the world save in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and, for the most part, North Carolina. As Dr. George W. Truett has observed: It was necessary therefore for Baptists to continue "to stand alone, to refuse to conform though it cost them suffering and even life itself. . . . They pleaded and suffered, they offered protests and remonstrances and memorials, and, thank God, mighty statesmen were won to their contention—Washington and Jefferson and Madison and Patrick Henry, and many others—until at last it was written into our country's Constitution that Church and state must in this land be forever separate and free, that neither must trespass upon the distinctive functions of the other. It was distinctly a Baptist achievement." ("God's Call to America," \* p. 50.)

Another great forward step taken by Baptists during the first part of the nineteenth century was their championship of and distinct leadership in the great Sunday school movement of the times. For while Robert Raikes established and conducted, by the aid of paid teachers, a non-religious week-day school on Sundays for the poor children of his community, it remained for William Fox, a wealthy Baptist deacon of London, to launch in 1783 the first school in the world for the popular study of the Bible by young people. At first the school met on week days, but studied only the

---

\* "God's Call to America," by George W. Truett. Baptist Sunday School Board, Publishers. Used by permission.



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Bible. In 1785, however, the school began to meet only on Sundays. About the same time (1785), Mr. Fox, aided by the Baptist pastors and other leaders, launched the first general Sunday school organization in the world—The Society for the Support and Encouragement of Sunday Schools."

"Bible societies," notes Dr. George W. McDaniel, "were organized first by a Baptist, Joseph Hughes (of London)." Mr. B. F. Jacobs, an outstanding Baptist layman of Chicago, and for many years a leader in the American Sunday School Union, was the prime mover in introducing the International Uniform Sunday School Lesson System into modern Sunday schools.

Baptists also led the way to the inauguration of the "modern mission movement," and this movement in turn gave a mighty impetus to the life and work of Baptists everywhere. "In 1792," observes Dr. W. J. McGlothlin, "they (English Baptists) organized the Baptist Missionary Society, the first society to be organized by Protestant Christians exclusively for the propagation of the gospel among the heathen. It became the model for all other societies. The first missionary was William Carey, who became one of the most notable missionaries in the history of Christianity." ("The Course of Christian History," \* p. 231.)

A little later (1812), two notable young men and one equally notable young woman, Mr. and Mrs.

---

\* "The Course of Christian History," by W. J. McGlothlin. The Macmillan Company, Publishers. Used by permission.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Adoniram Judson and Luther Rice, were sent out to India from Andover Theological Seminary in America by the Congregational Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Says Dr. Henry C. Vedder: "The Judsons and Luther Rice were sent to India by different ships. Judson and his wife, by their study of the Scriptures, became convinced that infant baptism is not warranted, and shortly after landing in India they were immersed on profession of faith by an English Baptist missionary at Calcutta. Rice had undergone the same experience and was also baptized soon after his arrival. By this act they had, of course, separated themselves from the society that commissioned them. Temporary support was assured to the Judsons by the English Baptists, and Luther Rice returned to America to lay the case before the Baptist Churches.

"There had been here and there symptoms of interest in foreign missions before this, and at least once an attempt had been made by the Philadelphia Association to enlist all the Churches in some definite enterprise. But now action quickly followed the coming of Rice. His immediate object was quickly attained, for the Baptist Churches of Boston undertook at once the support of the Judsons. It was felt, however, that now something larger than this should be attempted. By the advice of wise men in and about Boston, Rice undertook a tour of the Baptist Churches of the States and devoted some months to this work, being re-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ceived everywhere with warm interest and finding immediate response to his appeals. He was not appealing to an unresponsive people. . . . As this missionary sentiment increased, it was evident that some organization must be effected to give it direction. The local societies that began to spring up were only a temporary and inadequate provision.

"In response to a call, the Churches generally sent delegates to a convention held at Philadelphia, in May, 1814, by which the General Baptist Convention of the Baptist denomination in the United States for Foreign Missions was organized. . . . It was the first enterprise in which practically all the Churches were united and as a bond of union was of inestimable worth to Baptists." ("Baptist History," \* pp. 70-72.)

One of the greatest achievements of the Baptists of the nineteenth century, and indeed of all the centuries, was the signal triumph of this body of Christians over certain disastrous, destructive, and divisive movements—viz, the "*Hardshell*" and *Campbellite* movements, both occurring simultaneously (1825 to 1845); the division of the Baptists of America into Northern and Southern Baptists (1845); and the most destructive and altogether disastrous war between the States which any nation had known up to that time (1860-1865). It might have been supposed that any one of these great divisive

---

\* "Baptist History," by Henry C. Vedder. The American Baptist Publishing Society, Publishers. Used by permission.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

movements would have been sufficient to have utterly wrecked and depleted the Baptist forces of America; but such, under God, was not to be the case. On the contrary, in spite of all the bitterness and bad feelings engendered, all the waste of funds and energies expended, all the disastrous and needless divisions incurred, and all the losses and crosses suffered, the great tide of Baptist progress in America swept on with such irresistible power as to make all these losses seem well-nigh negligible.

Take for example, the great "Hardshell" and Campbellite movements (1825 to 1845) which took out of the regular Baptist ranks, particularly in the South, perhaps 200,000 persons during this period. To what extent did these two great divisive movements, both distinctly anti-missionary in their beginnings, affect the onward movement of Baptist life and growth? Here is the answer:

In 1825 Southern Baptists numbered but 156,011, while the Baptists of the United States numbered only 295,306. In 1845, however, Southern Baptists numbered 352,950, while the Baptists of the nation numbered 811,935—a net gain of more than 126 per cent in the Baptists of the South, and a net gain of almost 175 per cent in the Baptist forces of America, in the twenty years marked by these great divisive movements!

Nor was the tide of Baptist progress halted by the division between Northern and Southern Baptists, which occurred in 1845 over the slavery issue. On the contrary, in the fifteen years from

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

1845 to 1860, Southern Baptists showed a net gain of 286,290, while the Baptists in America as a whole showed a net gain of 360,875. The same thing, moreover, was true of that greatest disaster that ever overtook the nation—the so-called Civil War. There were, for example, 639,240 Baptists in the South and 1,172,810 Baptists in the nation as a whole in 1860; whereas, in 1880, or about the close of the Reconstruction period, there were (thanks to the great revival of 1857 in the North and the other and still greater revival in the Southern armies during the war), 1,672,631 Baptists in the South and 2,510,209 in the nation as a whole. In other words, during the twenty years of this most disastrous, destructive, and divisive struggle in the history of our nation, Southern Baptists had a net gain of 1,033,391 (colored and whites), whereas the Baptists of the nation as a whole came out of this struggle with a net gain of 1,337,399!

Still another phase of the progress of the Baptists of America during the nineteenth century was a thoroughgoing denominational organization. Beginning with Massachusetts in 1802, State conventions were organized throughout the whole nation. Following the organization of the General Baptist Convention in 1814 already referred to, moreover, came the establishment of the Baptist General Tract Society in 1824, which was enlarged and erected into the American Baptist Publication Society in 1840. Then followed the establishment of the



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

American Baptist Home Mission Society in 1832, the American Baptist (Foreign) Missionary Union in 1846, the American Baptist Historical Society in 1853, the Woman's Baptist Foreign Mission Society in 1871, the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society in 1877, the American Baptist Education Society in 1888, the Baptist Young People's Union of America in 1891, the Northern Baptist Convention in 1907, etc.

Immediately upon the organization of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845, Southern Baptists instituted the Baptist Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va., and the Baptist Home Mission Board at Atlanta, Ga. These in turn were followed by the establishment of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, now at Louisville, Ky., in 1859; the Woman's Mission Union, now at Birmingham, Ala., in 1888; the Baptist Sunday School Board (and Publishing Agency) at Nashville, in 1891; the Board of Ministerial Relief and Annuity at Dallas, Tex., in 1918; and the Southern Baptist Education Board, since changed to the Southern Baptist Education Commission, at Birmingham, Ala., in 1920, etc.

In the meantime, also, the colored Baptists of America began "housekeeping" for themselves, in 1880, by organizing the National Baptist Convention of America. This convention has a Board of Foreign Missions at Louisville, Ky., an Educational Board and a great Publishing Board at Nashville, Tenn. Colored Baptists (now divided

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

into two conventions) also support the Lott-Carey Baptist Convention for Foreign Missions at Richmond, Va.

The first meeting of the World Baptist Alliance—an association composed of all groups of Baptists of all nations—was held in London, in 1905. Since that time sessions have been held in Philadelphia, Pa., in Stockholm, Sweden, and in Toronto, Canada.

### **The Distinctive Message of the Baptists**

In spite of the fact that no one of the various groups of the Baptists of the whole world hold as authoritative any creed save the New Testament; in spite of the fact that all these groups claim and exercise the greatest individual freedom and initiative in interpreting the Word of God; and in spite of the fact that they are often widely separated over the world and have widely varying degrees of education, and have no ecclesiastical dignitary or council set over them, ninety-five per cent of them will be found holding in common the following cardinal principles:

Absolute lordship in the faith and life and labors of Christians belongs to Jesus Christ and to him alone.

The Bible and the Bible alone is the sole rule and guide of faith and life and labor in Christ.

A direct and personal approach to God is the inalienable right of every soul.

Salvation is altogether by grace through faith and the direct operation of the Spirit of God.

The rights and privileges of baptism and the Supper belong to regenerate believers only.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Christians differ in gifts, in powers, and in places of service, but are equal in rank and privilege and the hope of eternal reward.

Christ only is the King and Lord of all, and every man is brother, and only a brother, to every other man.

The Holy Spirit and he alone is the vice-gerent of Christ on earth and the God-appointed teacher and ruler of Christians.

The Church is a body of baptized (*not rantized*) believers, recognizing Christ only as Lord and Law-giver, and voluntarily associating themselves together in brotherly love and in coöperative service and striving continually to know and to carry out the will of God.

The ordinances of baptism and the Supper are symbolic and not saving ordinances; they are Church ordinances and not Christian ordinances, being set within the Churches, not without them; and they are to be observed by the Churches until Christ comes again.

The gospel of Christ made effective in men's hearts by the Holy Spirit is the only means of bringing the world to God.

The whole gospel belongs to the whole world, and the chief obligation of every Christian is to carry this gospel to every creature.

Churches, being independent and self-governing bodies under the laws of Christ, may send out and support missionaries separately or in coöperation with other Churches, as they may choose.

Complete religious liberty is the inalienable right of every human soul; and the functions of Church and state must be kept separate in order to properly safeguard this inalienable right.

### Baptist Forces and Resources, 1928

Coming now to the forces and resources of Baptists in 1928, we note first the numbers:

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

Northern Baptist Convention.....	1,419,883
Southern Baptist Convention.....	3,815,001
National Baptist Convention (Colored).....	3,271,000
American Baptist Association.....	117,858
Miscellaneous Baptist Groups:	
Six Principle Baptists.....	293
Seventh Day Baptists.....	7,264
Free Will Baptists.....	79,592
Free Will Baptists (colored).....	13,396
Free Will Baptists (Bullockites).....	36
General Baptists.....	31,501
Regular Baptists.....	23,091
Separate Baptists.....	4,803
United Baptists.....	18,903
Baptist Church of Christ.....	7,340
Primitive Baptists.....	81,678
Colored Primitive Baptists.....	43,978
Independent Baptists.....	222
German Baptists (Dunkards, 5 groups).....	158,250
Total in the United States.....	9,094,089
Dominion of Canada.....	143,106
Mexico.....	6,293
Central America and Canal Zone.....	1,757
West Indies.....	53,675
South America.....	35,801
England, Scotland, Ireland, etc.....	416,665
Continental Europe.....	221,140
Russia (estimated).....	1,000,000
Asia.....	343,165
Africa (5 sections).....	72,530
Australia (7 provinces).....	33,001
Total Baptists in the world.....	11,421,222

The regular Baptists alone (represented in the first four groups mentioned above) have 95 State conventions, about 3,000 district associations, 56,000 churches, 8,623,742 members, 47,500 Sunday schools, 5,400,000 enrolled in their Sunday schools, 49,000 church houses, 8,500 pastors' homes, church property valued at \$452,000,000, with \$75,500,000 contributed for all purposes in 1928.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Their educational institutions comprise 18 theological schools, 4 religious training schools, 68 colleges and universities, 51 junior colleges, 84 academies, and 2 Indian schools. These institutions have a total of 5,328 instructors, 45,110 students, of which number 5,845 are ministerial students; they occupy 1,603 buildings which with the grounds are valued at \$117,501,600, they have endowment amounting to \$120,123,411; total property and endowment in 1928, \$237,625,011.

Their orphanages and schools for homeless children number 35 and care for 5,250 children. The property includes 225 buildings and, together with the grounds, is valued at \$6,250,000. These homes have endowment amounting to \$1,500,000, bringing the total value of the homes to \$7,750,000.

In addition to the care of the homeless children, the Baptists of America maintain 31 homes for the aged and infirm, which are equipped with 76 buildings, 1,704 hospital beds, where 50 physicians and 50 nurses care for 1,031 patients. This property is valued at \$3,491,600, and the endowment amounts to \$2,054,751, or a total of \$5,546,351.

Also the Baptists of America now own and operate 37 hospitals having 4,600 beds and caring for 85,000 patients annually. The property comprises 94 buildings and, together with the grounds, is valued at \$17,500,000, with only \$162,883 endowment. These hospitals last year employed 1,163 physicians, had in training over 1,500 nurses, and expended \$4,700,000 on maintenance.



# Regular Baptists by States

(1927 Statistics)

States	Northern	Southern and American	Negro
Alabama.....	.....	289,772	214,231
Arizona.....	5,938	.....	.....
Arkansas.....	.....	156,748	108,000
California.....	76,292	.....	.....
Colorado.....	24,522	.....	.....
Connecticut.....	27,840	.....	.....
Delaware.....	2,791	.....	.....
District of Columbia....	7,222	7,223	39,879
Florida.....	.....	117,418	125,000
Georgia.....	.....	414,415	552,010
Idaho.....	5,447	.....	.....
Illinois.....	94,996	61,213	347,000
Indiana.....	86,559	.....	36,000
Iowa.....	50,382	.....	.....
Kansas.....	59,308	.....	21,099
Kentucky.....	.....	318,984	90,000
Louisiana.....	.....	126,951	126,981
Maine.....	34,381	.....	.....
Maryland.....	.....	18,438	17,000
Massachusetts.....	96,043	.....	.....
Michigan.....	61,613	.....	14,111
Minnesota.....	30,835	.....	.....
Mississippi.....	.....	224,664	400,000
Missouri.....	.....	224,793	88,895
Montana.....	4,514	.....	.....
Nebraska.....	21,376	.....	.....
Nevada.....	1,084	.....	.....
New Hampshire.....	14,644	.....	.....
New Jersey.....	68,314	.....	37,704
New Mexico.....	.....	12,119	.....
New York.....	185,926	.....	16,242
North Carolina.....	.....	386,191	200,000
North Dakota.....	7,440	.....	.....
Ohio.....	92,888	.....	65,000
Oklahoma.....	1,967	138,763	58,500
Oregon.....	19,676	.....	.....
Pennsylvania.....	158,974	.....	50,000
Rhode Island.....	19,653	.....	.....
South Carolina.....	.....	223,448	200,000
South Dakota.....	10,000	.....	.....
Tennessee.....	.....	277,743	190,000
Texas.....	.....	533,558	215,000
Utah.....	1,160	.....	.....
Vermont.....	10,815	.....	.....
Virginia.....	.....	225,243	275,000
Washington.....	24,070	.....	.....
West Virginia.....	76,201	.....	26,300
Wisconsin.....	22,279	.....	.....
Wyoming.....	3,734	.....	.....

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

## OTHER BAPTIST BODIES

Besides the Regular Baptist bodies, which are classified as (1) Regular, North, (2) Regular, South, and (3) Regular, Colored, there are other Baptist bodies, as follows:

**4. Six-Principle Baptists.**—They take their name from their creed, founded upon Hebrews vi. 1 and 2, which consists of six principles: Repentance from dead works, faith toward God, doctrine of baptism, the laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. The first Church was organized in Rhode Island in 1652. There are six organizations, all but one in Rhode Island, having 293 members, a decline from former reports.

**5. Seventh-Day Baptists** are distinguished mainly by their observance of the seventh day as the Sabbath. They first appeared in England in 1676, the first Church founded still surviving. The first American Church was founded in Rhode Island in 1671. They have a foreign missionary society and support a publishing house and two colleges. The denomination is represented in twenty-four States, being most numerous in New York, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island. They report eighty-eight churches and 8,183 members.

**6. Free Baptists.**—Originated in New Hampshire in 1780, when Benjamin Randall, a Congrega-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

tional minister, joined by two Baptist ministers, organized a Church. They rejected the Calvinistic doctrines held by the Regular Baptists; hence their name. The denomination grew rapidly, but later lost several thousand members to the Adventist movement. In 1841 the Free Communion Baptists, a small body in New York, united with them. The Free Baptists as a distinct denomination no longer exist, the main body of the membership and all denominational agencies having been united with the Northern Baptists.

**7. Freewill Baptists** arose in North Carolina in 1729 by forming an association separate from the Regular Baptists. They reject Calvinism and practice open communion. Foot-washing and anointing the sick with oil are practiced among them. They have quarterly and annual conferences, the latter exercising oversight of ministers and having power to settle difficulties between Churches. Statistics (U. S. Religious Census, 1926): Churches, 1,006, with 78,265 members. The membership is strongest in North Carolina, 31,256, although Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee each have more than 5,000 members of this body. A colored branch is credited with 13,800 members, and another branch called the "Bullock-ites" has 184 members.

**8. General Baptists.**—These were originally sim-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

ilar to the General Baptists of England, holding Arminian views and practicing open communion, but most of the early Churches of this kind in America later became Calvinistic. The first association of General Baptists was organized in Kentucky in 1824. They are strongest in Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois. They have 535 churches and 32,050 members.

**9. The Separate Baptists** date from the Whitefield revival and were originally composed of Baptists who favored that movement, separating from Baptists who opposed it. They are now generally in doctrinal agreement with the Freewill, or Free Baptists. They are found mainly in Kentucky and Indiana, with 4,803 members.

**10. United Baptists**, the result of a union of many Separate Baptists with Regular Baptists, this union occurring mainly in Kentucky and Virginia. The doctrinal result of the union was a modified Calvinism. Open communion is practiced; also the washing of feet, these exercises being observed only once a year. The organization has no Sunday schools, no public collections, and no salaried ministry. The U. S. Census reports for 1926 credit this body with 221 churches and 18,903 members. Of this membership Kentucky has 11,557.

**11. Baptist Church of Christ (Duck River Association)**, organized in Tennessee in 1808. They

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

have spread to three or four other States. They hold a modified Calvinism and practice foot-washing. The strength of the denomination is found mostly in the region in Tennessee where it originated. Report for 1926, 98 churches and 7,340 members.

**12. Old School, or Primitive, Baptists.** — The members of this denomination claim to be the original Baptists, from whose principles and practices all others have departed. This body took its rise about 1835 in organized opposition to foreign missions, Sunday schools, and other "human institutions." The opposition was founded in the hyper-Calvinistic views of the seceding Churches, it being their view that missionary societies, Sunday schools, etc., tended to make the salvation of men depend upon human effort rather than on divine grace. An article in the original constitution of the Churches declines fellowship "with any Church or Churches which support any missionary, Bible, tract, or Sunday school society," or which advocate State conventions or theological schools "formed under the pretense of circulating the gospel." The Primitive Baptists do not believe in an educated or salaried ministry. They practice foot-washing and close communion. Churches are divided in many localities on their Calvinistic theology, but the main body of the membership and ministry holds fast to the old doctrine of the "decrees." Churches are or-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ganized into associations, of which there are two hundred and seventy-nine, fifteen of which are colored. Primitive Baptists are most numerous in the South, Georgia leading, with 15,317 members, followed by North Carolina, 9,963; Virginia, 9,745; Tennessee, 7,007; and Alabama, 6,483. The U. S. Census for 1926 reports a total of 2,267 churches, with 81,374 members. The same reports give for the Colored Primitive Baptists 925 churches, with 43,978 members, found chiefly in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

**13. Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian.**—These took their origin and name from certain theological speculations of Daniel Parker, a Baptist preacher who labored in Tennessee, Illinois, and Texas. Parker sought to explain the doctrine of election on the theory that a part of Eve's offspring were the seed of God and as such were to be saved, and a part were the seed of the devil and were to be lost. All the manifestations of good or evil in man are but the result of the infusion of particles of God or of the devil in them, and the Christian warfare is a conflict between these opposing particles. The Two-Seed Churches agree with the Primitive Baptists in their extreme Calvinism and in their opposition to missions, Sunday schools, etc. The body is known only in Kentucky and Tennessee and has (by U. S. Census reports for 1926) 27 churches and 304 members, a decline from 679 members reported in 1916.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

**14. Landmark Baptists (American Baptist Association).**—Regarded in some sections as a distinct denomination; but, according to a Landmark pamphlet: "By Landmarkism is meant only that some Baptists refuse to take up with new inventions, and that they steadfastly contend for the old order of things. Landmarkism is not the beginning of a new denomination. The exact opposite is true." The Regular Baptists have departed from the ancient landmarks of Baptist faith and practice, and Landmarkers are the true Baptists, according to this view. The latter hold aloof from the associational and conventional activities of other Baptist bodies and have no fellowship with other Baptist Churches. In Texas Landmark Baptists are more generally known as "Anti-Board Baptists." They have one college (Jacksonville, Tex.), two orphans' homes, and issue papers at Little Rock, Ark., Fulton, Ky., Dallas and Texarkana, Tex. There are State Associations in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. A U. S. Census Bulletin for 1926 reports for this body 1,431 churches, with 117,858 members. The membership is largest in Texas (53,853) and Arkansas (41,281). In Oklahoma this body takes the name of Baptist General Assembly of Oklahoma.

**15. Regular Baptists.**—Certain associations of Baptist Churches, chiefly in Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia, have maintained a separate identity and are known as Regular Baptists. They have

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

a historical and doctrinal kinship with the General, the Separate, and the United Baptists (*q. v.* above). The union of certain Separate and Regular Baptist Churches in Kentucky and Virginia resulted in the United Baptists. But many Separate Baptist Churches and a larger number of Regular Baptists did not enter the union; hence the present-day Separate Baptists and the Regular Baptists. They practice the washing of feet; do not believe in Sunday schools or a salaried ministry, and in other ways are similar to the Primitive Baptists; but they hold to a general atonement and to the free will of the believer, in which respect they differ widely from the Primitive Baptists. The U. S. Census of Religious Bodies for 1926 reports 348 churches for the Regular Baptists, with a membership of 23,010.

### **16. Independent Baptist Church of America.—**

This is a small body, having 13 churches and 222 members, nearly all of which are situated in Minnesota. It is of recent origin.

Besides the above English-speaking Baptist bodies in the United States, there are numerous foreign-speaking bodies, such as the German, with 33,626 members; Swedish, with 32,827 members. Total foreign-speaking Baptists (American Baptist Yearbook, 1928), 83,023.

Tabulations compiled by Dr. H. K. Carroll and published in 1927 (the latest figures obtainable for all Baptist bodies in the United States) give the following totals: Ministers, 52,584; churches, 62,103; members, 8,670,895.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

The British Baptist Handbook for 1927 gives a grand total of all Baptists in the world (which includes an estimated 1,000,000 for Russia) at 10,635,704.

---

### BRETHREN CHURCHES

THREE religious families call themselves simply the Brethren. These are the Dunkard Brethren (five bodies), Plymouth Brethren (six bodies), and the River Brethren (three bodies). They are distinct in origin, but hold many principles and practices in common.

**The Dunkards.**—These are otherwise known as Dunkers or Tunkers, from the German word “tunken,” meaning to dip, which is their mode of baptism. They are also known as German Baptist Brethren. The body arose during a religious awakening in Germany in the latter part of the seventeenth century, when many pious people became dissatisfied with the State Church. In 1708 Alexander Mack and eight companions of like convictions organized a society at Schwarzenau, Westphalia, agreeing to follow the New Testament alone as their guide. They began the practice of baptism by trine immersion, administering it to adults only. They gained many adherents to their ranks, and within a few years there were Churches with many members in Germany, Switzerland, and Holland.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Persecutions arose, and, encouraged by liberal land grants by William Penn, within a few years practically the entire membership emigrated to Pennsylvania. The first congregation in America was organized at Germantown in 1723, with Peter Becker as minister. The first division in their ranks occurred in 1732, when a small company, led by John Conrad Beissel, withdrew on account of differences concerning the Sabbath and community of goods and established the Ephrata Community. An important incident in the history of the Germantown Church was the editing and printing of the first German Bible in America, the work being done by Christopher Saur. Some copies of this publication are still in existence. The Brethren spread rapidly to the West and South as the country opened up, and now they are found in large numbers throughout the Central Western States, their membership being made up entirely of Germans.

In belief and practice, the Dunkards undertake to follow the New Testament, in the main interpreting it literally and applying it to the minutest affairs of life. In receiving members, the candidate is immersed three times in water, face forward, and in a kneeling posture, after which the administrator lays his hands upon the member's head and offers prayer. They take the Lord's Supper usually in the evening, preceded by a love feast. Foot-washing is



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

observed among them, during which service there is an exchange of the right hand of fellowship, and the kiss of charity is given, the sexes being separated during the foot-washing and attendant ceremonies. In their relation to the world the Dunkards have strictly inculcated nonconformity and nonresistance. In agreement with these views they have generally settled in rural colonies, and they follow the simplest pursuits. Plainness of dress is enjoined, and differences among them are settled without going to law. They take but little interest in politics, are opposed to secret societies, forbid the use of tobacco, and have always been sternly opposed to the manufacture, sale, or use of intoxicating liquors.

The chief ecclesiastical body of the Dunkards is the annual meeting, or conference. Here all questions pertaining to doctrine and usage are settled, and the action of this conference is binding upon the Church members. The ministry consists of bishops, elders, and deacons, all of whom are elected by the congregations. The ministers are untrained and usually receive no stated salary, but pursue other livelihoods in connection with their ministry.

In 1882 the Dunkards suffered a division in the separation of the "progressive" wing of the denomination, the immediate cause of the break being the expulsion in that year by the annual meeting of

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Henry R. Holsinger, a leading progressive, on the charge of speaking and writing disrespectfully of some leading members of the Church. The progressive element were less strict in their association with the world and advocated more extensive missionary and educational activities. The progressives organized as a separate Church in a convention held at Dayton, Ohio, in 1883. As a result of the progressive agitation in the Church there arose the Old Order Brethren, the ultraconservatives, who opposed all change and refused to adopt new methods. They separated themselves from the main body, now called the Conservatives, in 1881. They have no affiliation with either of the other bodies.

The Conservative Brethren now number 1,030 churches and 128,392 members, their largest strength being in the States of Pennsylvania (33,671), Indiana (14,673), Ohio (14,342), and Virginia (15,875). Considerable bodies are also found in Maryland, Kansas, Illinois, and California.

The Progressives number 174 churches and 25,026 members, found chiefly in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Ohio. The Progressives have extended their missionary work to some of the large cities, as Washington, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

The Old Order Brethren number 62 churches and 3,036 members, nearly all in Ohio.

A Seventh-Day (German) branch is reported,

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

with 144 members, and a new branch called the Church of God, or New Dunkards, with 650 members.

**Plymouth Brethren.**—This sect came into existence at Dublin, Ireland, about 1828, when one John Nelson Darby formed a society whose chief characteristic at the time was a protest against the exclusive High Church principles and alleged dead formalism of the Church of England. Another society was organized at Plymouth, England, and this grew into such public notice as to give rise to the name. The movement has extended itself throughout the British dominions, to the continent of Europe, and to the United States. The Brethren are Calvinistic in doctrine. Millenarian views are generally held among them. They are very exclusive in their practices, having no fellowship with other denominations. They have Sabbath gatherings for Bible study and the Lord's Supper, but they have no regular Church organizations, no church buildings, and no ordained ministry. Adults only are baptized. Divisions have occurred among them, growing out of questions of doctrine and discipline; but none of the branches has ever taken a denominational name. For purposes of distinction they are classified in the United States census reports as Plymouth Brethren I., II., III., IV., V., and VI. The census reports of 1926 credit the various branches

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

with the following membership: Plymouth Brethren I, 4,877; II, 13,407; III, 634; IV, 1,663; V, 2,152; VI, 88. They are most numerous in the States of New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and California.

**River Brethren.**—These consist of several small congregations, found mainly in Pennsylvania. They resemble in doctrine and practice the Menonites, from whom it is believed they have sprung. Swiss immigrants formed the first organization near the Susquehanna River, in Pennsylvania, in 1750. They baptized their members in the river; hence the name applied to them. They baptize by trine immersion, observe foot-washing, and teach non-conformity to the world. They are distinguished as:

(1) Brethren in Christ, the most numerous and best-organized branch. They have district conferences and a general conference. Membership, 74,320.

(2) Old Order, or Yorker, found in York County, Pa. Membership, 472.

(3) United Zion's Children, with 905 members.

---

### CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC (IRVINGITES)

IN 1829-30 Rev. Edward Irving, a minister of the Church of Scotland, began preaching in London on the spiritual gifts of the apostolic Church, maintaining that these gifts were intended to be per-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

petual in the Church. About the same time a company of clergymen and laymen of the Church of England began to meet for Scripture study on the second coming of Christ and the office of the Spirit in the Church. In February, 1830, reports came from Scotland that the gifts of tongues and healing had appeared in a certain Presbyterian family living near Glasgow. Upon investigation these phenomena were declared to be genuine. Similar manifestations occurred in Irving's Church in London. Irving encouraged these demonstrations and accepted them as confirming his beliefs and preaching. He was deposed from the Church of Scotland on the charge of heresy. But the movement, of which he was the most conspicuous advocate, took shape, and in 1832 the apostolic office was revived and filled mainly with the members of the Anglican Bible study circle, above mentioned, who fell in with Irving's doctrines. The result was the Catholic Apostolic Church, found not only in England and Scotland, but on the Continent and in the United States and Canada.

The Church recognizes four orders of ministers—namely, apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors, or “angels.” The gifts of the Holy Spirit can be imparted only by the laying on of the hands of these apostles. Doctrinally, the Church agrees with other evangelical bodies, but its difference lies mainly in



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

its insisting upon the spiritual phenomena of the early Church. Where there are enough to form a congregation, services are held twice a day—at 6 A.M. and 5 P.M. In the Sabbath services the Lord's Supper is observed with an elaborate ritual. Each Church is regarded as complete in itself.

There are reported by United States census in 1916 13 ministers, 13 churches, and 2,768 members. They are found mainly in the State of New York. There are a few churches elsewhere. There is one, for example, in Nashville, Tenn.

**New Apostolic Church.**—Claims the same historical origin as the Catholic Apostolic, but began as a separate congregation in Hamburg, Germany, in 1862. Present membership in the United States, 2,938.

---

### CATHOLICS

THE name "Catholic" is associated in the popular mind only with the Roman Catholic Church. It was originally used to distinguish the Christian Church from the Jewish, the latter being restricted to a single nation, whereas the former was intended for the world. The name has been retained by the Church of Rome in agreement with its claim of being the successor of the primitive Church; but Protestants deny that it is applicable to Rome any more than to other Christian bodies. (See "Eastern Orthodox Churches" and "Roman Catholics.")

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

### CHRISTADELPHIANS

THIS is a small but widely scattered body, dating from about 1850. John Thomas, M.D., came over from England in 1844. He joined the Church of the Disciples, but later withdrew and began to publish certain views concerning Churches, in which he expressed the belief that all denominations were apostate Churches. He organized a number of societies in this country, Great Britain, and Canada. The societies took no name until the time of the Civil War, when, alleging conscientious scruples against military service, in order to be exempt they had to take a name. They chose the name of Christadelphians, or "Brothers of Christ." The sect rejects the doctrine of the Trinity, the belief in a devil, and personal immortality. They look for the millennial reign of Christ, who will take the throne of David in Jerusalem. They have no ordained ministers. They have 134 churches and 3,352 members, found chiefly in Massachusetts, New York, and California.

---

### CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

THIS is an alliance or union formed in 1916 of certain organizations which had been engaged in evangelistic and missionary work. The movement dates back to 1881, when Rev. A. B. Simpson, a Presbyter-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

rian minister in New York City, resigned his charge and engaged in evangelistic work among the unchurched masses. As a result of his labors a "Christian Alliance" was formed for home mission work and a "Missionary Alliance" for foreign work. The movement has never sought to form itself into a distinct denomination, and many of its leaders and members are connected with regular denominations. The organization gives itself mainly to evangelistic work, and is strongly "fundamentalist" in faith, but is liberal in the observance of church ordinances and forms. Six or seven training schools for evangelistic and missionary workers are operated. There are 332 churches and 22,737 members in affiliation with the organization, found chiefly in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio.

---

### CHRISTIANS, OR CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

THIS body takes the name simply of "Christians" and is often confused with the Disciples of Christ, who generally call themselves by the same name; but while they agree in many respects, they are in other respects widely different. The denomination now known as Christians, or (by way of distinction) Christian Connection, grew out of three independent movements occurring in other Churches.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

In 1793 Rev. James O'Kelly, with twenty or thirty other ministers and about a thousand members, withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church. The defection occurred in Virginia and North Carolina and grew out of objections to the unrestricted appointive power of bishops and the use of creeds and disciplines. They first took the name of Republican Methodists, but abandoned this title and adopted the name of Christians. Closely following this movement, but independent of it, Abner Jones, a Baptist physician in Vermont, led a secession among the Baptists. A Church was formed, taking the name of Christian. In 1804 a similar movement occurred among the Presbyterians in Kentucky, led by Rev. Barton W. Stone, who, with five other ministers, dissolved a presbytery and agreed to be known as Christians only. These three movements, each unknown to the other, were alike in taking the same name and in claiming to take the Scriptures alone as their only creed and Christian character as the only test of fellowship. As Churches multiplied they became acquainted, and general meetings and coöperation and fellowship developed among them. General organizations for promoting publishing, educational, and missionary work followed. The organization led by Stone in Kentucky finally (about 1831) united with the Disciples, and more than fifty Churches were absorbed by this de-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

nomination. In 1854, owing to utterances against slavery by a general convention held in Cincinnati, the Churches in the South withdrew and formed a separate branch. Since 1894, however, the Southern Churches have been represented in the general convention, and they are now recognized as one body.

The American Christian Convention, which meets every four years, is now the general representative body of the Church, having in charge all its general interests. Extensive missionary work is carried on in the United States, Canada, Japan, and Porto Rico. The denomination has about twelve colleges and seminaries, and a publishing house at Dayton, Ohio. Doctrinally, the Christians agree in accepting the Bible as their only rule of faith. They have never formulated a confession or statement of faith. They believe in the avoidance of sectarian names and, like the Disciples, advocate the union of all denominations. But, unlike the Disciples, they hold that Christian character is the only test of Church membership or fellowship. They allow large liberty of conscience and insist upon the right of private judgment in all matters of theological opinion or practice. They generally baptize by immersion, but sprinkling is allowed among them, and they will admit to communion and to Church membership those who have been baptized by affusion in other Churches without rebaptizing. They are congrega-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

tional in government, but have annual conferences, which receive and ordain ministers, but which have no legislative powers.

The latest statistical reports show them to have 1,044 churches and 112,795 members. The membership is largest in Ohio (24,165) and Indiana (17,658), in the North, and in North Carolina (19,950) and Virginia (13,971), in the South.

---

### CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Composed of people of Dutch stock; organized in 1857. In 1890 it was joined by the True Protestant Dutch Reformed Church, which in 1822 had separated from the Reformed Church in America. Its Creed is composed of the Netherland Confession of Faith in Thirty-Seven Articles; the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Five Canons of the Synod of Dordrecht. Its Church polity is Presbyterian. It has consistories, classes, and a synod, the last named body meeting every two years.

Besides home mission work in Canada and in the United States, and Jewish mission work in Chicago, Ill., and Paterson, N. J., it carries on mission activities among the Indians of the Southwest (main station Rehoboth, N. Mex.), and in China (main station Jukao, Kiangsu Province).

It has a Theological School and Calvin College at Grand Rapids, Mich., the denominational headquarters.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

A metrical version of the Psalter is used in public worship as chief manual of praise. Much stress is laid on instruction in catechism classes and Christian day schools.

Communicant membership 1928, 50,434.

---

### CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

THE Church of Christ, Scientist, is founded upon a system of philosophy, religion, and medicine formulated by Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy, a full exposition of which is given in her book, "Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures." Mrs. Eddy was born in New Hampshire in 1821. In her girlhood she joined the Congregational Church, the Church of her parents. Her educational advantages were limited; and if the testimony of many of her classmates is true, she availed herself but poorly of her school days. She claims, however, to have had superior advantages from private tutors and to have learned Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Critics outside the ranks of her followers declare that her unedited writings display the poorest literary gifts.

As a girl Mrs. Eddy was weak in body and hysterical, and at no time in her life was she ever far removed from physical invalidism. In early womanhood she seems to have attracted some attention as a mesmeric and spiritualistic subject. She was married three times, once divorced, and in other

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ways her career was a checkered one. According to a friendly authority, "her whole life up to the age of fifty had been an utter failure, as the world viewed it and as many of her more intimate acquaintances estimated it; but one may search history from the beginning and have difficulty in matching Mrs. Eddy's performance between the ages of fifty and eighty in making a million people accept her at her own valuation."

In 1862 Mrs. Eddy, at that time the divorced widow of Dr. Patterson, her second husband, visited Dr. Quimby, a mental healer (or popularly called such) at Portland, Me. She was in such condition as that she "had to be helped upstairs." She claimed to have been healed and became a student and advocate of Quimby's teachings and methods. Many investigators declare that Mrs. Eddy obtained her doctrines from Quimby and that she obtained from him—some say purloined—manuscripts and notes on his work which became the basis of her books. Her followers undertake to refute these charges, and the founder herself impliedly asserts that Christian Science came to her as a revelation. In a letter written by Mrs. Eddy to Dr. Quimby in 1863 (from letters in possession of Quimby's son and quoted in Georgine Milmine's "Life of Mrs. Eddy") the following statement is made: "I am to all who see me a living wonder and a living monu-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ment of your power. My explanation of your curative principle surprises people, especially those whose minds are all matter." From this and other evidence it appears that Mrs. Eddy was indebted to Dr. Quimby for a cure and that he was indebted to her for an explanation of it, though it is not a matter of record that the Doctor ever acknowledged the debt. Dr. Quimby died in 1866. Later in the same year Mrs. Eddy announced her discovery of "the first purely metaphysical system of healing since the days of the apostles."

She began teaching and practicing her system, but for a number of years she gained adherents but slowly. In 1875 her book appeared, the first edition of "Science and Health," and the following year she organized the first Christian Science Association with six pupils. In 1879 she organized the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, composed of twenty-six members, with herself as pastor. This became the "Mother Church" of the movement. It now occupies a building costing more than \$2,000,000 and has 62,017 members—not all resident, but found in many States. Other Churches were formed, called branches; and while the Mother Church exercises no superior authority over other congregations, they usually follow the customs and services observed in the Boston Church. The cult has found its following mainly in the cities.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Mrs. Eddy's book, "Science and Health," purports to reveal the science of God, of life, and of man. God is the only reality. All mind, life, truth, love, goodness—and throughout her book these words are capitalized and apparently endowed with as much personality as she ever attributes to God—are but manifestations or reflections of God. "Man is inseparable from God," but it is denied that he is part of God; he, too, is a "reflection of God." It is denied that the principles of healing set forth in this system are the same as mental healing, faith cure, or healing by prayer. Sickness and all the ills and woes of life, including death, are unreal and "are to be overcome by spiritual understanding of divine reality." But the whole system is extremely metaphysical and is admittedly confusing and difficult to those who have not embraced it. As a "key" to the Scriptures, one does not have to read far in Mrs. Eddy's book to discover, if he is familiar with the Bible, that he is here in a strange land. Christian Science subverts every evangelical doctrine and robs the sacred Book of all its majesty and meaning. Mrs. Eddy claims to have read the Scriptures "through a higher than mortal sense." But, in the language of H. C. Sheldon ("Christian Science, So Called"), "she merely uses the Scriptural texts as pegs upon which to hang her stock phrases. Her exegetical notes might just as well have been at-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

tached to almost any other writings, say to passages of the Gilgamesch Epic, written in old Babylon, or to chapters of the Upanishads, composed in ancient India." "Science and Health," first sent forth as a key to the Scriptures, has been elevated above them, both in the assumptions of its author and in the veneration of her disciples. Mrs. Eddy ordained the Bible and "Science and Health" as the "impersonal pastor" of her flock; but in Christian Science Churches the reader of "Science and Health" is called the "First Reader" and takes precedence over the reader of the Bible, who is designated the "Second Reader." In the Christian Science Church its founder did not scruple to displace the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with a "Galilean Breakfast," putting into it a meaning of her own.

The Christian Science propaganda is carried on through a Board of Lectureship, attached to the Mother Church. Persons who are qualified to teach are given degrees, B.S.C. or D.S.C. (Bachelor or Doctor of Christian Science), and they are sent out to deliver public lectures on the doctrines. There is a well organized and financed press bureau, which usually provides for the publication at length of these lectures in the press of the city where they are delivered. The Sunday services of the congregations consist of readings from the Bible and

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

"Science and Health," hymns, prayers, and the benediction. The midweek service is devoted to testimonies and experiences.

The following statistics are furnished by the U. S. Census Bureau, and are for 1926:

	No. Churches.	Members.
Alabama.....	13	542
Arizona.....	12	335
Arkansas.....	15	506
California.....	235	16,355
Colorado.....	41	2,948
Connecticut.....	26	1,517
Delaware and Maryland.....	7	990
District of Columbia.....	4	1,257
Florida.....	37	2,024
Georgia.....	12	809
Idaho.....	23	771
Illinois.....	123	16,763
Indiana.....	80	5,514
Iowa.....	60	3,171
Kansas.....	63	2,719
Kentucky.....	15	844
Louisiana.....	8	788
Maine.....	23	911
Massachusetts.....	72	8,536*
Michigan.....	87	6,338
Minnesota.....	43	4,430
Mississippi.....	11	263
Missouri.....	57	5,979
Montana.....	21	926
Nebraska.....	38	2,085
New Hampshire.....	22	702
New Jersey.....	54	3,190
New Mexico.....	9	228
New York.....	141	11,530
Nevada.....	9	180
North Carolina.....	14	492
North Dakota.....	15	411
Ohio.....	90	9,477
Oklahoma.....	37	2,118
Oregon.....	48	2,893
Pennsylvania.....	64	4,776

\*Includes resident members of Mother Church only.

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

	No. Churches.	Members.
Rhode Island.....	5	580
South Carolina.....	4	124
South Dakota.....	16	528
Tennessee.....	9	1,064
Texas.....	53	3,296
Utah.....	5	601
Vermont.....	12	310
Virginia.....	12	616
Washington.....	78	4,773
West Virginia.....	8	477
Wisconsin.....	70	4,035
Wyoming.....	12	359
Undistributed membership.....		62,017
Total.....	1,913	202,098

**Divine Science Church.**—The U. S. Census Bureau reports 22 churches of this branch, with 3,466 members.

---

## CHRISTIAN UNION CHURCHES

THESE are called the Independent Churches of Christ in Christian Union and date their origin from the period of the Civil War. The movement leading to their formation began in Ohio under the leadership of Rev. J. V. B. Flack, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and arose in opposition to the enthusiasm and activity displayed among the Churches in support of the war. "Political preaching, parading," and patriotic demonstrations in support of the government were condemned. Members of many Churches who disapproved of the war spirit in the Church were gathered into separate congregations. The first Church of the new denomination

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

was organized in Illinois in 1863 or 1864. A convention was held in 1864 at Columbus, Ohio, where representatives from various denominations gathered and laid the foundation for the new Church. After the war closed, the Churches turned their attention to efforts to promote Christian unity. They occupy at the present time a position in doctrine, practice, and purpose similar to the Churches of the Christian Connection. They have 386 ministers, 323 churches, and 17,800 members. Their strength is mainly in the State of their origin, Ohio, but they are represented also in the States of Missouri, Indiana, and Iowa.

---

### CHURCHES OF GOD (THE WINEBRENNERIAN- NERIANS)

THIS denomination was founded by John Winebrenner (hence sometimes called Winebrennerians), who had been previously a pastor of the German Reformed Church at Harrisburg, Pa. Winebrenner's earnest preaching, in which he denounced all worldly amusements, produced a revival in and around Harrisburg. Its progress was opposed by his own people, and he was brought under charges by officials of his denomination. Winebrenner severed his relations with his charge and his Church, but continued to preach and to lead in the

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

revival. Other ministers in sympathy with him met with him in 1830, and they adopted a basis of a new Church organization. The leading principles of the denomination as adopted at that time are: (1) The believers in any given place according to the divine order constitute one body, and these are God's household, or family, and should be known as the Church of God; (2) the divisions into sects and parties under human names and creeds is contrary to the New Testament; (3) the Scriptures, without note or comment, constitute the sole rule of faith and practice; and (4) there are three ordinances binding upon Christians—immersion in water in the name of the Trinity, washing the disciples' feet, and partaking of bread and wine in commemoration of the sufferings and death of Christ.

The organization of the Church consists of elderships, or conferences, of which there are seventeen, found in as many States. There is a general eldership, composed of delegates from the lower elderships, which meets quadrennially and has charge of the general interests of the denomination. In local affairs the Churches are presbyterian in government; but pastors are appointed to the various charges by the annual elderships. In doctrine the Churches generally hold Arminian and premillenarian views. The body maintains three colleges (at Findlay, Ohio, Fort Scott, Kans., and Barkey-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ville, Pa.) and a publishing house at Harrisburg, Pa. Extensive home missionary work is carried on, and missionaries are at work in India and other foreign fields. It has an active woman's missionary society.

The latest reports show: Churches, 428; members, 28,376, mostly in Pennsylvania (15,671) and Ohio (3,883).

---

### CHURCH OF GOD AND SAINTS OF CHRIST (COLORED)

THESE are sometimes called the "Black Jews," on account of their fancied claim of being the descendants of the lost tribes. It is held that the latter were originally a black people. The sect owes its origin to William S. Crowdy, who claimed to be called of God as a prophet. He founded his Church in Topeka, Kans., in 1897. The system of doctrine is presented in "Crowdy's Manual," or "The Bible Story Revealed." The Jewish Passover is annually celebrated with a mingling of Jewish and Christian rites. The sect reports 112 churches and 6,741 members.

---

### CHURCHES OF THE LIVING GOD (COLORED)

BEARING this name are three groups of negro churches, found mainly in Texas. They are: (1)

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

The Church of the Living God, organized about 1908, reporting 27 churches and 1,743 members. (2) Church of the Living God, Christian Workers for Fellowship, organized in Arkansas in 1889, having churches now in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Texas, with a "chief" residing at Memphis, Tenn. This branch corresponds mainly with the Baptists in faith and practice. The denomination has a seminary at Ponta, Tex. Local organizations are called "temples," of which there are sixty in existence, with 9,626 members. (3) Church of the Living God, General Assembly—a secession from the body last mentioned above, with Methodist leanings. Organized in 1908. Headquarters at Waco, Tex., the "Jerusalem" of the tribes. There are six churches and 266 members of this body.

---

### CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (SWEDENBORGIAN)

THE doctrines set forth in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg (born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1688; died in London in 1772) form a basis of the union of his followers, who are better known as Swedenborgians. The first steps toward organization began in London in 1782, when Robert Hindmarsh, a printer, gathered a few associates into a society for reading and studying the works of

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Swedenborg. This association gradually took on the forms of a religious society. The result was the Church of the New Jerusalem, named after the New Jerusalem of the Apocalypse. A general conference was formed, which has met annually since 1815. In 1906 7,256 Swedenborgians were enrolled in Great Britain. Many who are enumerated as Swedenborg's followers have not severed their membership with other Churches, which is also true in this country.

The first Swedenborgian society organized in America was in 1792 at Baltimore. The various societies and Churches in the United States and Canada are associated in a general convention, which meets annually. There are also State associations. In government the New Jerusalem Church is partly congregational and partly episcopal, each local society governing its own affairs; but there are general pastors, corresponding to bishops in episcopal Churches. The service is largely liturgical, conforming to the Book of Worship published by the general convention.

Swedenborg's doctrines grew out of his experience in which he professed to have had his spiritual senses opened. His experience was unique in that he did not claim to have communication with spirits nor to have received visions or revelations; but he professed through all the later years of his life that

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

he was a dweller within the spiritual world; that, being dead on the side of this world, he was in constant association with spiritual beings as one of them. According to Swedenborg, the Church which Christ established came to an end in 1757, and he testifies that he witnessed the last general judgment at that time in the spiritual world. A new dispensation was introduced, the beginning of the Church of the New Jerusalem, prophesied in the Revelation; and of this dispensation and Church the writings of Swedenborg contain the doctrines.

There are now two Churches of the New Jerusalem, the main body being known as the General Convention of the New Jerusalem, having 85 churches and 5,442 members. The second is designated the General Church of the New Jerusalem, with 13 churches and 996 members.

---

### COMMUNISTIC SOCIETIES

THESE embrace all societies or religious bodies observing the communal life. Those now in existence in the United States and that have, or began with, a religious basis are given. They are as follows:

**The Amana Society.**—There are several organizations of this society which call themselves the “True Inspiration Congregations.” They are located at Amana, Ia. Immigrants from Germany founded

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

the society near Buffalo, N. Y., whence they removed during the next ten years to their present location. The community was incorporated in 1859 with provisions that all property should be held in common; that agriculture, manufacturing, and trade should furnish the means of sustenance; and that the surplus should be applied to communal improvements and for educational and benevolent purposes. Persons joining the society surrender all property and all claim to wages and are promised in return board and dwelling, support in old age and sickness, and are given an annual allowance for clothing and other expenses. It was formerly held that the person at the head of the society was under the direct inspiration of God. The temporal government is vested in thirteen trustees, who are elected annually by the male members of the society. Baptism is not practiced, and the Lord's Supper is observed only when inspired direction is given. Religious services are held every day in the week, in which Bible study and inquisitorial examination of the members are prominent. The society has seven churches and 1,534 members.

**The Shakers, or the Millennial Church.**—The Shakers were the first to organize communistic societies in this country, and for more than a century these communistic settlements have been maintained among them. Their first community was



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

organized at Mount Lebanon, N. Y., in 1792. This is also the largest and is recognized as the "central executive" of all the Shaker societies. The Shakers were at first a sect of the English Quakers. They appeared about 1747 as a result of a revival in which, because of their bodily agitations when under religious excitement, they came to be called the "Shaking Quakers." Ann Lee became the leader of the Shakers. She professed to have received revelations "of the way of redemption," proclaimed herself a reincarnation of the Messiah, and came to be accepted as such. She came to America in 1774 with a small company of followers and established a Church at Watervliet, N. Y. Ann Lee died in 1784, and three years later the society was placed on a communal basis. According to the Shaker doctrines, the religious history of mankind is divided into four cycles. The first included the antediluvians; the second, the Jews up to the coming of Christ; the third, from the time of Christ to the appearing of Ann Lee; the fourth and last is the present dispensation, and the Shaker Church is the embodiment of Christ's kingdom on earth. The Shakers reject the doctrine of the Trinity, holding that God is dual, male and female; that he appeared in Christ as male and in Ann Lee as female. They also deny the resurrection of the body and the atonement. Spiritualism is a prominent doctrine

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

among them, also celibacy. In their religious services exhortations by both men and women marching and dancing to music are prominent. In the ministry and in all the affairs of the Church men and women are on an equal footing. The Shakers have dwindled to six societies and 250 members.

---

### CONGREGATIONALISTS

THE Congregational body may be justly entitled the mother of Churches. From it have proceeded the Baptists, Unitarians, Universalists, Adventists, Christian Scientists, and other bodies; and the parent Church still remains the predominant Protestant denomination in all the New England States except Rhode Island.

The Mayflower, landing at Plymouth, Mass., in 1620, brought the first Congregational Church to American shores. While all the Pilgrims were not members of that Church, the larger part of them had been members in Holland; and upon a division of the Church in that country, a part remaining and a part emigrating to America, it was agreed that each part thereafter should constitute a complete Church, so that the Mayflower brought over a completely organized Church which transplanted itself in America. The Church in Holland had been made up of English Congregationalists, who had fled thither to escape persecutions. English Congrega-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

tionalism dates from 1580, the first organization being formed in that year at Norwich by Robert Browne, who had become dissatisfied with the Anglican Church, in which he was a minister. This body was scattered by persecutions. Other Churches of this system met a similar fate. The Church which was afterwards represented in the Mayflower colony was organized at Nottinghamshire in 1606. Two of the members of this congregation were John Robinson, who became its pastor, and William Bradford, afterwards Governor of the Plymouth Colony. The Nottinghamshire Church was broken up in 1608, and its members fled to Holland and reorganized. This Church prospered, remained harmonious, and was distinctly Congregational, in all essential particulars like the Congregational Churches of the present time.

The history of Congregationalism in America for two centuries following the landing of the Pilgrims is closely interwoven with the history of New England, where from the first it was the dominant Church. The Puritan colonists of 1628-30, members of the Anglican Church at home, found Congregationalism so well adapted to their new conditions in America that they adopted it, and until 1700 there were hardly any other Churches in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Congregationalism became practically the "State Church" of these colo-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

nies. Political suffrage was for a time limited to Church members, and until the early part of the nineteenth century the Church was supported by taxation. This condition was changed in Connecticut in 1816 and in Massachusetts in 1833.

In 1801 a plan of union was entered into with the Presbyterians concerning the formation of Churches in new settlements in the West. Under it Congregationalists moving from New England to other States usually entered Presbyterian Churches. Until the abrogation of this agreement, in 1852, Congregationalism was confined almost entirely to New England. The antislavery position of the denomination closed the Southern States to it before the war. Since 1852 the Church has grown rapidly in many of the Western States. Their numbers in the South are still small, and their work in this section is confined largely to the negroes.

In doctrine the Congregationalists agree substantially with all evangelical faiths. In their early history they held the Calvinistic position, and one of their early creedal statements was the Westminster Confession. In 1883 a commission appointed by the national council formulated a Confession, consisting of twelve articles. It is more evangelical in its statements than the older creed. But no Congregational Church is obliged to accept any creed or declaration of faith. Each Church may adopt its

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

own creed, and many Churches do. In polity the underlying principles have been stated as being (1) the independence of the local Church and (2) the fellowship of the Churches. Stated in another way by another authority, the characteristic features of Congregational polity are freedom and fellowship—a freedom which leaves each Church to manage its own affairs, a fellowship which unites all the Churches for mutual care and coöperate action. In accordance with the principle of autonomy, each Church may draw up its own creed and covenant, formulate its order of worship, elect and install its pastor and other officers. It is common, however, in calling or dismissing a pastor, in forming new Churches, in cases of discipline, and in questions arising between Churches, to refer these matters to a council composed of pastors and members of neighboring Churches. Churches are associated in local and State associations and in the national council. The national council was formed in 1871 and meets triennially. It has no legislative nor judicial power over the Churches, but administers the general missionary and other interests. At its meeting in 1913 a new constitution was adopted, under which the general agencies of the denomination are correlated and placed under the advisory direction of a commission.

The Congregationalists have always been in the



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

forefront in missionary and educational work. A missionary society was formed in Connecticut as early as 1798 and in Massachusetts a year later. The National Congregational Home Mission Society was formed in 1826 and has been active in extending Churches in new settlements. The American Missionary Association, organized in 1846, has done its work chiefly among the negroes of the South. The oldest foreign mission society in this country is the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, founded in 1810. It has planted Congregational missions in India, Turkey, Japan, China, Micronesia, Austria, Africa, Spain, and Mexico.

Congregationalists founded Harvard and Yale Universities, and these institutions were long engaged mainly in equipping men for the ministry. The Unitarian controversy early in the nineteenth century, resulting in the loss of thirty-nine Churches to the Congregationalists and the division of nearly one hundred others, wrested Harvard from the control of the denomination. Andover Theological Seminary was established to fill its place. Other seminaries are the Atlanta, Bangor, Chicago, Hartford, Oberlin, Pacific (Berkeley, Calif.), and Yale. Including these and three important woman's colleges, the denomination has founded more than forty higher institutions of learning.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

The Congregationalists had in the United States, in 1927, 5,608 churches and a membership of 914,698. The leading Congregationalist States, by the U. S. Religious Census of 1926, are: Massachusetts, 159,252; Connecticut, 81,080; New York, 69,187; Illinois, 61,727; Ohio, 51,644; and California, 43,202.

---

### DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE movement resulting in the organization of the Church of the Disciples is often referred to among themselves as the restoration movement—not a reformation, but a restoration of primitive Christianity. Characteristic expressions of their early preaching were: “The ancient order of things!” “Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent;” “A thus saith the Lord, either in express terms or by approved precedent, for every article of faith and item of religious practice;” and “Nothing ought to be received into the faith or worship of the Church nor be made a test of communion among Christians that is not as old as the New Testament.”

Many of these declarations are attributed to Thomas Campbell, an Irish Seceder Presbyterian minister, who came to America in 1807. He was immediately assigned work by his Church in Washington County, Pa. His fraternity with other denominations and his indifference to the usages of

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

his own, as instanced by his inviting members of other Presbyterian bodies to the communion, brought upon him the censure of his brethren. He withdrew from the Seceder Church, but continued to preach, mainly in the homes of the people. In 1809 he formed the "Christian Association of Washington," and a meetinghouse was built. Campbell issued a "Declaration and Address," in which he explained that "this society by no means considers itself a Church, nor do the members consider themselves as standing in that relation, but merely as voluntary advocates of Church reformation." The Declaration protested against the "bitter jarrings and janglings of a party spirit," against human opinions and creeds in the Church, and announced the purpose of returning to the original pattern laid down in the New Testament.

In the same year Thomas Campbell was joined by his son, Alexander, from Ireland, who adopted his views. The father made some efforts to unite the "Association" with the Presbyterians, but his overtures were rejected. The son showed himself of a different spirit and purpose and henceforth became the champion of the cause advocated in the Declaration and Address. "A more aggressive leader was needed," says M. M. Davis ("History of the Restoration Movement"), "and the father instinctively stepped to the rear and threw his man-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

tle over the shoulders of his son." The father laid the foundation, but the son built thereon.

In 1811 the first Church of the Christian Association was organized at Brush Run, Washington County, Pa., with twenty-nine members. Alexander Campbell was ordained to the ministry in this Church in 1812. During the same year the father and son, having previously surrendered their belief in infant baptism, changed their views on the mode of baptism, and they and their families were immersed by a Baptist minister. This change brought the Baptists into sympathy with them, and upon invitation of the Redstone Baptist Association, and "being still anxious to avoid every appearance of forming a new denomination," the Brush Run Church entered this association in 1813. Baptist churches were thrown open to Alexander Campbell, and his aggressive presentation of his views gained him a wide hearing. He held debates with Pedobaptists in which his Baptist brethren were his enthusiastic supporters. "But he was candid with them and warned them against a possible future." He is reported as having addressed to a company of Baptist preachers the statement that "I have nearly as much against you Baptists as I have against the Presbyterians."

In 1823 Mr. Campbell began publishing the *Christian Baptist*, in which he set forth views which

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

brought upon him widespread opposition among the Baptists. He was tried for heresy and acquitted; but Baptist Churches began to disfellowship his followers. As a result the Brush Run Church withdrew from the Redstone Association and joined the Mahoning Association, in Eastern Ohio. The Mahoning Association became so leavened with Campbell's teachings that it disbanded, and the Churches joined the new movement almost in a body. The rupture with the Baptists was brought about, according to Vedder, a Baptist historian, on account of the practice of baptism, "unto the remission of sins," which Campbell was advocating. Davis, the historian of the Disciples, agrees, but mentions other differences, as those involving the subjects of conversion, creeds, the administrator in baptism, the use of the Lord's Supper, the reception of members, and the call to the ministry. The same author says: "No exact day can be named as the time of this sad occurrence [the separation], for it came about gradually and consumed several years in its consummation; but we may date it 1830. After this the followers of Mr. Campbell were called Christians, or Disciples of Christ, or the Christian Church, the legal title being the Church of Christ at such and such a place." The names commonly applied by outsiders and opposers of the movement were "restorationers" and "Campbellites."



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Mr. Campbell was early assisted in spreading his views by a great number of preachers, many of them recruits from other Churches, mainly from the Baptist, and some of them raised up by the movement. The most famous of these was Rev. Walter Scott, an Ohio evangelist, through whose influence the practice of baptism "for the remission of sins" began about 1827. The new doctrines found their readiest acceptance in Ohio, Kentucky, Western Virginia (afterwards West Virginia), Indiana, Missouri, and Tennessee. And in this territory "not only individuals by the hundreds and thousands were saved, but often entire congregations swung into line. . . . Baptist congregations would vote out the Philadelphia Confession and vote in the New Testament in its place. And not only Baptists, but Presbyterians, Universalists, Lutherans, Methodists, and Episcopalians, in large numbers were reached. The Deerfield Methodist Church came in as a whole." During this period the forces abroad were ably assisted by Mr. Campbell, not only in preaching and debating tours, but by his editorial work on his paper, which he now called the *Millennial Harbinger*. "This paper kept up a raking fire all along the line of religious discussions, but it was specially severe at certain points. One of these was the clergy, and he handled them without gloves. He characterized them as

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

hireling priests, textuary divines, and scrap doctors. . . . He scored them for their clerical dress, their sanctimonious speech, their long-faced piety, their devotion to party, and their claim to a special divine call."

The largest and most important accession in one body to the Campbell movement was the union with it of Rev. Barton W. Stone and some fifty Churches of his following in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio, the union occurring in 1831. The Stone movement began in Kentucky in 1804, when, as a result of great revivals in that section, Stone, with a few other ministers, left the Presbyterian Church and formed an organization, taking the name of Christian. Mr. Campbell's biographer, Dr. Richardson, contrasts the two parties to the union as follows: "In one [the Stone party] the protracted meeting was prominent, and converts were multiplied; in the other the mists and clouds of theological speculation were dissipated, and the Church of the apostolic days was being brought back into view."

For the next thirty-five years, or until his death, in 1866, Alexander Campbell was the foremost figure in the movement. He traveled thousands of miles, preached, lectured, held public discussions, and was a voluminous writer, his publications numbering some sixty volumes. He founded Bethany College, West Virginia, in 1840, "with the Bible

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

as a textbook." In 1847 he traveled and preached in Great Britain, where he found Churches called Churches of Christ, of independent origin, but holding much in common with his views.

One of Campbell's books, "The Christian System," is the best-known treatise on the doctrinal position of the Disciples; but a tract entitled "Our Position," by Isaac Errett, is held to be the best brief statement of their faith. This authority, after naming the points of agreement with other evangelical bodies, sets out the particulars in which the Disciples differ. These are: 1. On the division of the Scriptures. The Disciples hold that, while both Testaments are inspired, the Old Testament was authority for the Jews; the New Testament is now an authority for Christians. 2. The Disciples repudiate the theological and philosophical speculations of Trinitarians and Unitarians and reject all unauthorized forms of speech on questions which transcend human reason, insisting only on the words given in the Scriptures concerning the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 3. They repudiate all human authoritative creeds. "We do not object to publishing what we believe and practice, but we refuse to accept any such statement as authoritative or as a test of fellowship." 4. "With us the divinity and Christhood of Jesus is the creed of Christianity, and we demand no other faith in order to baptism

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

and Church membership. In matters of opinion, touching which the Bible is either silent or obscure, we allow the largest liberty." 5. "While recognizing the agency of the Holy Spirit in conversion, we repudiate all theories of spiritual operations and all theories which rule out the Word of God as the instrument of regeneration and conversion or which regard regeneration as a miracle, leading men to seek for evidence of acceptance with God in supernatural tokens rather than in the definite and unchangeable testimonies and promises of the gospel." 6. "We insist on the meaning of baptism, according to the divine testimonies, that it is for the remission of sins. Concerning the Lord's Supper, we invest it not with the awfulness of a sacrament, but regard it as a memorial feast and keep it on every Lord's day, recognizing neither open nor close communion." 7. "The Church of Christ—not sects—is a divine institution. We do not recognize sects, with sectarian names and symbols, as branches of the Church of Christ, but as unscriptural and anti-scriptural and therefore to be abandoned for the one Church of God which the New Testament reveals. That God has a people among these sects we believe and call on them to come out from all party organizations. We urge the Word of God against human creeds, faith in Christ against faith in systems of theology, obedience to Christ rather

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

than to Church authority, the Church of Christ in place of sects, the promises of the gospel instead of dreams, visions, and marvelous experiences as evidences of pardon." On the subject of the design of baptism this author explains that "regeneration must be so far accomplished before baptism that the subject is changed in heart, and in faith and penitence must have yielded up his heart to Christ, otherwise baptism is nothing but an empty form. But forgiveness is something distinct from regeneration; forgiveness is an act of the sovereign, not a change of the sinner's heart; it needs to be offered in a sensible and tangible form, such that the sinner can seize it and appropriate it. . . . In baptism, therefore, the sinner appropriates what the mercy of God has provided and offered in the gospel."

In point of Church government, the Disciples agree with the Congregationalists and Baptists, with the exception that the distinction between clergy and laity is not known. They have elders, or bishops, deacons, and evangelists; but in the absence of a minister the members meet in worship, observe the Lord's Supper, and any member may administer baptism. No ecclesiastical courts are recognized, but it is now becoming somewhat general to refer cases of discipline to a committee for final decision. Churches are organized into district,



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

State, and national conventions; not for discussion or decisions in matters of doctrine or discipline, but only for coöperation in the benevolent work of the denomination.

The history of the Disciples has not been without controversies within its own ranks. The slavery question seriously threatened the integrity of the body, but it came through the war without a division. The communion question, as to whether unimmersed persons should be invited to the Lord's table, was long a subject of controversy. The more general conclusion reached, though it was not unanimous, was that indicated above, that "we neither invite nor exclude." Another subject of controversy, and which proved more serious than any other in its consequences, was the question of instrumental music in the churches. The differences on this subject reached an acute stage about 1870. Those who opposed the organ in worship generally also opposed missionary societies. Feeling ran high, and hundreds of congregations became divided. The division has never been healed, but rather have the parties in this controversy grown wider apart. "The rupture at this point," says Davis, "is the most serious matter yet encountered in the plea for Christian union. It shows our inability to fully illustrate this glorious plea." The two parties resulting from this division are now

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

generally known by the name of the Church of Christ, or the Conservatives, who do not use instrumental music in their worship, and the Disciples of Christ, or the Progressives, who are more in line with other evangelical Churches in their worship and in their wonderful growth and activities.

The educational work of the Disciples began with the founding of Bethany College, West Virginia, in 1840. Alexander Campbell was its founder and first president. The institution now has an endowment of \$1,435,000 and property valued at \$539,000. Transylvania University (Lexington, Ky.), Drake University (Des Moines, Iowa), Hiram College (Hiram, Ohio), and Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, Tex.) rank high in property valuations and endowments. Other flourishing institutions are: Phillips University (Enid, Okla.), Cotner University (Lincoln, Nebr.), and Virginia Christian College (Lynchburg, Va.).

The American Christian Missionary Society was organized as a home mission agency in 1849. The Christian Women's Board of Missions was organized in 1874, and the Foreign Christian Missionary Society dates from 1875. All of these have been merged into a United Christian Missionary Society, which administers the work of both home and foreign missions, together with the work of church erection, ministerial relief, and the benevolent homes

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

of the Church. The headquarters of the Society are in St. Louis. The "Men and Millions Movement," launched in 1913, was the first campaign among the Churches for "millions" for missionary purposes. It contemplated the raising of \$6,000,000, \$1,000,000 of which was pledged—and has been paid—by a wealthy layman of Kansas City.

Following are the membership statistics by States for both wings of this body—the figures for the Disciples of Christ being taken from the Yearbook of that body for 1927 (including reports to June 30, 1927); those for the Church of Christ are from reports of the U. S. Census Bureau and are for 1926:

	Disciples of Christ.	Church of Christ.
Alabama.....	8,709	30,115
Arizona.....	2,529	816
Arkansas.....	18,996	26,239
California.....	51,335	4,438
Colorado.....	20,545	1,477
Delaware.....	192	.....
District of Columbia.....	5,531	.....
Florida.....	12,442	6,159
Georgia.....	19,646	4,039
Idaho.....	5,748	411
Illinois.....	132,737	10,017
Indiana.....	164,416	21,419
Iowa.....	73,121	4,302
Kansas.....	81,798	8,983
Kentucky.....	135,852	29,539
Louisiana.....	4,782	2,240
Maryland.....	6,175	.....
Michigan.....	17,326	2,156
Minnesota.....	6,571	.....
Mississippi.....	8,136	6,968
Missouri.....	153,176	19,260
Montana.....	4,103	154
Nebraska.....	29,872	1,269
New England (Maine only).....	2,152	117

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

	Disciples of Christ.	Church of Christ.
New Jersey.....	540	.....
New Mexico.....	2,995	2,032
New York.....	13,698	182
North Carolina.....	34,755	1,013
North Dakota.....	193	.....
Ohio.....	124,335	11,257
Oklahoma.....	62,683	34,645
Oregon.....	22,904	1,102
Pennsylvania.....	40,944	2,135
South Carolina.....	4,565	325
South Dakota.....	2,252	164
Tennessee.....	24,577	72,015
Texas.....	80,897	98,909
Utah.....	341	.....
Virginia.....	40,031	700
Washington.....	23,926	1,069
West Virginia.....	21,874	13,660
Wisconsin.....	3,717	73
Wyoming.....	1,398	.....
Total.....	1,472,514	433,714

### EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH

THIS is the general name of a family of churches which constitute one of the three grand divisions of Christianity—Eastern Orthodox (or Greek Catholic) Churches, Roman Catholic, and Protestant. The Eastern Orthodox Churches adhere to the Greek rite, in distinction from the Latin, or Roman, and all the churches of this group hold the faith, or system of doctrine, formulated by the seven early ecumenical councils.

The division of the ancient Church into the Eastern, or Greek, wing and Western, or Roman, occurred in the ninth century. They were never or-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ganically united, but grew up together and co-operated in the early extension of Christianity and in the early ecumenical councils. But from the beginning they differed in tradition, nationality, and language. The growth of the papacy in the West laid the foundation for the final rupture, the conflict between the pope of Rome and the patriarch of Constantinople finally resulting in each excommunicating the other. The chief doctrinal difference between the Eastern and Western Churches is the "Filioque" addition to the Nicene Creed made by the Roman Church, making that creed declare that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father "and the Son," the Greeks holding that the procession is from the Father only, as originally stated. The Greek Church differs from the Roman in other important particulars, as follows: Rejection of the papacy; celibacy is not practiced, priests being allowed to marry once; baptism among the Easterns is by trine immersion, sprinkling, as practiced by the Romans, being held to be "an unchristian innovation"; the attitude in prayer is standing, except at Pentecost, when the worshipers kneel; infants are confirmed and admitted to the communion at baptism. The Greeks have an elaborate ritual, like the Romans. They accept the first seven ecumenical councils, but reject all the Western councils. They are not strongly committed against



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Protestantism, as the reform movement never came into active conflict with the Eastern Church. But the effort made by a patriarch of Constantinople to engraft Calvinism upon the Greek theology failed completely, and the innovator was strangled to death and his body thrown into the Bosphorus (1638). Until 1917 secession from the Orthodox Church was rigidly prohibited.

The Eastern Church is divided into fifteen branches, each independent of the other. The communion embraces the Greek, Russian, and Slavonic nationalities and is found chiefly in Turkey, Greece, Serbia, Roumania, Russia, some parts of Austria, in Western Asia, and, chiefly by immigration, in the United States. The largest branch is the Church in Russia, ruled by the Russian Holy Synod. Formerly the Czar was the recognized head of the Church, but the revolution, beginning in 1917, has left the Church in Russia without a head and has revealed the fact that the Church has but little influence or directing force in the life of the nation. The estimated membership of all the various branches throughout the world is 150,000,000.

In the United States there are nine branches of the Eastern Orthodox Church; but, as in the Old World, all are one in doctrine, discipline, and worship, and all are subject to ancient canon law as to

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

government. The Russian Church has precedence over other branches, for the reason that she was first to be planted in this country. All Slavonic branches, excepting the Bulgarian and the Syrian Church, are under her rule. The Greek branch is under the Synod of Athens. The following are the latest obtainable figures for the various branches in the United States:

Albanian Orthodox.....	No report
Armenian Apostolic.....	86,000
Russian Orthodox.....	200,000
Greek Orthodox.....	256,000
Syrian Orthodox.....	51,000
Syrian (Antioch) Orthodox.....	26,000
Serbian Orthodox.....	100,000
Roumanian Orthodox.....	7,500
Bulgarian Orthodox.....	3,130
Total.....	729,630

### EVANGELICAL CHURCH

WHILE not usually classified among Methodist bodies, the Evangelical Association is Methodistic in doctrine, polity, and in spirit, and it is represented in the Methodist Ecumenical Conferences. Its founder, Jacob Albright, was at one time a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Albright was a German, born in Pennsylvania in 1759. The low religious condition of his own people around him led him to undertake a religious revival among them about 1790. His efforts met

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

with success, and, like the founder of Methodism, he was soon confronted with the problem of taking care of his converts. The leaders of his own denomination "did not wish to do work at that time among the Germans of this country," and Albright was elected bishop. Two years later a discipline, similar to that used in the Methodist Episcopal Church, was published. Albright's followers were at first called the "Albright people," or the "Albrights," but later the name Evangelical Association of North America was taken. While this movement was begun among the German people, it has now its largest membership among English-speaking people.

Differences of long standing culminated in 1890 and 1891 in the trial and suspension of the three bishops of the Association. In October, 1891, two bodies, each claiming to be the legal general conference, met, the one in Philadelphia, the other in Indianapolis. The courts were resorted to, and their decisions were generally in favor of the Indianapolis conference. The opposite wing organized the United Evangelical Church at Naperville, Ill., in 1894.

After twenty years of separation the two bodies were reunited in 1921-22. The General Conferences of the two organizations came together in joint session in October, 1922, at Detroit, Mich., and merged

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

themselves into the General Conference of the Evangelical Church. A section of the United Evangelical Church did not enter the union, and continues as a separate denomination, reporting 153 churches and 20,449 members.

The Evangelical Church is strongest in the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. It has thirty-two Annual Conferences and maintains extensive publishing, educational, and missionary agencies. Northwestern College and the Evangelical Theological Seminary are located at Naperville, Ill. Other colleges are located at Myerstown and Reading, Pa., and at Le Mars, Iowa. The Church reports 1,949 ministers, 2,076 churches, and 206,080 members.

---

### EVANGELICAL SYNOD (GERMAN)

THIS represents in the United States the State Church of Prussia, which is composed of a union of Lutheran and Reformed elements. According to an official statement, "the object and purpose of the German Evangelical Synod in general is the advancement and extension of the kingdom of God, but especially the establishment and expansion of the Evangelical Church among the German population of the United States."

The Synod was organized near St. Louis, Mo., in 1840. Other German synods have since united with it. The Synod is divided into eighteen districts,

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

which hold district annual conferences. There is a general conference, which convenes every four years. The body carries on through various boards extensive educational, missionary, and benevolent work. Both parochial and Sunday schools are maintained. The work of the denomination is done almost exclusively among the German population, but in recent years a few English-speaking Churches have been organized. This body is most numerous in the States of Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio. Statistics: Ministers, 1,186; churches, 1,316; members 305,620—an apparent falling off, due to correction of previous reports.

---

### FRIENDS

THE founder of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, was George Fox, who, becoming dissatisfied with the religious conditions in England, began preaching about 1647. He traveled through England on foot and soon drew around him a considerable following. One of Fox's early converts was Margaret Fell, a woman of prominence, who became one of his strongest supporters. From her house a band of sixty Quaker missionaries went forth to preach the doctrines of the new faith. The labors of Fox and this band of preachers were attended by great spiritual power, and thousands of adherents were gathered. On account of some doc-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

trines preached, as advising against oaths, the payment of taxes for the support of the State Church, and against obedience to all laws deemed by them iniquitous, the Friends came into conflict with the government, and thousands of them were imprisoned and subjected to persecution.

After many rebuffs the movement took hold in the American colonies in New England as early as 1660. George Fox himself made a preaching tour of the colonies in 1673-81. But the most important enterprise in the history of the Society in this country was the settlement of Pennsylvania by William Penn and a company of his brethren, beginning in 1682. This colony was controlled by the Friends for more than seventy years.

Soon after the cessation of persecution (about 1680) the Friends lost much of their aggressiveness and began to turn their attention to internal organization and discipline. Much attention was also given to works of philanthropy and against slavery. From this time there was a steady decline in membership. In 1827 a schism occurred in the societies in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and Indiana, due to the preaching of Elias Hicks, a prominent Friend, who taught doctrines closely resembling Unitarian views. The followers of Hicks came to be known as the Hicksite branch. In 1840 another separation from the main body occurred, although not so

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

serious nor distinct as before, the point of controversy being as to the relative authority of the Scriptures and the Spirit. Those who separated are known as the Wilburites, from John Wilbur. Since 1871 the Friends have been active supporters of foreign mission work.

The doctrine emphasized in the preaching of George Fox and the distinctive doctrine held by the Friends from that day is that relating to the "inner illumination and guidance of the Holy Spirit" in the individual believer. This doctrine lies at the root of all their special doctrines and explains the peculiar nature of their meetings. The Friends meet and usually remain in silence, in meditation, worship, or self-examination, until some one is moved by the Spirit to speak. In their view all believers are "priests unto God," and any person, old or young, male or female, who feels so called has the authority to teach or to preach. The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are not observed, their belief being that the baptism of the Spirit and communion with the Father and the Son meet all Scriptural necessities.

The societies are associated in monthly, quarterly, and annual meetings. These meetings appoint overseers for the membership and elders for oversight of the ministry. It has become noticeable of late that the distinctive Quaker garb is being laid

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

aside and that the characteristic "thee" and "thou" of their speech is falling into disuse. The Society maintains several educational institutions, among them being the William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, founded by William Penn, and Bryn Mawr Woman's College, at Bryn Mawr, Pa.

There are four divisions of the Friends in this country, as follows: The Orthodox, the most numerous branch, strongest in Ohio and Indiana; the Hicksite, strongest in Pennsylvania; the Wilburite, found mainly in Indiana and Iowa; and the Primitive, with an insignificant scattered membership. The total figures for all bodies are: Ministers, 1,361; churches, 939; members, 115,528.

---

### HOLINESS BODIES (EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATIONS)

THERE are a great number of independent bodies, bearing various names, widely divergent in many points of doctrine and polity, but which agree in emphasizing sanctification, or "holiness," as a distinct experience. The U. S. Census reports group many of them under "Evangelistic Associations," and the Federal Council Yearbook (1923) uses the same classification; but both reports list under different names many other small organizations which are distinguished by the same holiness doctrine.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

All bodies thus distinguished are grouped together here under the general title of "Holiness bodies." They are as follows:

1. **Apostolic Church**, reporting 112 members.
2. **Apostolic Christian Church**, of German-Swiss origin, with 5,709 members, mostly in Illinois.
3. **Apostolic Faith Mission**. Originated in a revival at Topeka, Kans., in 1900. It has 2,119 members.
4. **Apostolic Over-Coming Holy Church of God**. The organization has 16 churches and 1,047 members, 13 of the churches being situated in Alabama.
5. **Assemblies of God, General Council**. Organized at Hot Springs, Ark., in 1914. Governed by a General Council, which meets annually. Headquarters of the organization are at Springfield, Mo. Schools are operated at Springfield, Mo., Los Angeles and San Francisco, Calif., Rochester, N. Y., Newark, N. J., Findlay, Ohio, and other places, indicating that the membership is widely scattered over the country. The organization is credited with 671 churches and a membership of 47,950.
6. **Christian Congregation**. Formed in 1899, at Kokomo, Ind., and existing only in that State, with an annual conference and a presiding bishop. It has 2 churches and a membership of 150.
7. **Church of Christ, Holiness**. A new organization reported in U. S. Census reports, with 82

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

churches and 4,919 members, found chiefly in Mississippi, but with a scattering membership in several other States.

**8. Church of Daniel's Band.** Found in Michigan, having 100 members.

**9. Church of God.** First organized in Monroe County, Tenn., in 1886 under the name of "Christian Union." The name was later changed to that of "Holiness Church," and in 1907 it was reorganized under its present form and name. The Church has bishops, deacons, and evangelists. This body, while largely Methodistic in origin, observes the ceremony of foot-washing, and baptism is by immersion. It has 23,247 members, found mainly in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

**10. Church of God (Headquarters, Anderson, Ind.).** This communion does not claim exclusive right to the name Church of God, but maintains that all who are truly regenerated of the Spirit are members of God's Church. The movement was an outgrowth of the holiness agitation in the last century and had its inception about the year 1880, when Daniel S. Warner and other ministers withdrew from organized Churches and maintained that the Scriptural, all-sufficient standard for Christians is membership in the body of Christ alone. The body has a membership of 38,209, found chiefly in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan.

**11. Church of God, as Organized by Christ.** Of

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Mennonite origin, existing in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, with 375 members.

12. **Church of God, Holiness.** Found only in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, with 29 churches and 2,278 members.

13. **Church Transcendent,** a single congregation in Ohio, with only 15 members.

14. **Congregational Holiness Church.** Of 25 churches reported, 21 are in the State of Georgia, with 939 members.

15. **Free Church of God in Christ.** Found in Texas, Kansas, and Colorado. Membership, 874.

16. **Hepzibah Faith Association.** A camp-meeting organization in Iowa, with about 400 members.

17. **Holiness Church.** Organized in Southern California in 1896, being formed from certain "Holiness Bands" which had withdrawn from the Methodist Churches. The headquarters of the body are at Los Angeles, Calif., but many churches are found in Kentucky and Tennessee. It has 32 churches and 861 members.

18. **Lumber River Mission.** An organization composed of Holiness Methodist Churches in North Carolina. Membership, 434.

19. **Metropolitan Church Association.** Developed from the Metropolitan Methodist Church in Chicago in 1894. Headquarters are at Waukesha, Wis. This branch is known as the "Burning Bush." Membership, 704.



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

20. **Missionary Bands of the World.** Headquarters, Indianapolis, Ind. Membership, 241.

21. **Missionary Church Association.** Organized in Indiana in 1898. Membership, 2,498.

22. **Penial Missions.** Headquarters, Los Angeles, Calif., having 257 members.

23. **Pentecostal Assemblies of the World.** Found chiefly in Indiana and Ohio. Membership, 7,850.

24. **Pentecostal Holiness Church.** A union of the Fire-Baptized Holiness Church and the Pentecostal Holiness Church, formed in North Carolina in 1911. The body has 252 churches and 8,096 members, found mainly in the South Atlantic States.

25. **Pilgrim Holiness Church.** Organized as the International Apostolic Holiness Union at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1897, by Martin W. Knapp, a Methodist minister. The Church is partly Methodist and partly Congregational in government. Schools are maintained at Owosso, Mich., Kingswood, Ky., Shaklesford, Va., Greensboro, N. C., and Allentown, Pa. Membership, 15,040, mostly in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and North Carolina.

26. **Pillar of Fire.** Headquarters at Zarephath, N. J. There are two Annual Conferences—an Eastern, which meets at Zarephath, N. J., and a Western, which meets at Denver, Colo. The body also has two bishops, one of them a woman, Alma White. The body reports 133 ministers, 23 churches, and 722 members.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

27. **Volunteer Missionary Society.** A colored body, organized in Alabama in 1900. Membership, 855.

---

### JEWISH CONGREGATIONS

ACCORDING to 1920 figures, a London estimate gives the Jewish population of the world at 15,430,000. The American Jewish Yearbook estimates the population at 15,744,662. The largest Jewish populations are found in Poland (3,300,000), the territories of the former Russian Empire (3,600,000), Austria and Hungary (2,250,000), and the United States (3,100,000). New York City has a Jewish population of 1,500,000; Chicago, 250,000; Philadelphia, 210,000; Cleveland, 100,000.

Jews at an early date, as exiles from Spain and Portugal, settled in the American colonies. They were found in New Amsterdam as early as 1652. They were joined by others from Brazil; but the Jewish settlers were not welcomed, and they moved to Rhode Island, where the first synagogue was organized about 1655. The old synagogue is still standing at Newport. Pennsylvania, Georgia, and the Carolinas were the next places of settlement. The Jews readily attached themselves to their new asylum and showed themselves patriots when the break came with England. A member of the New-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

port synagogue gave \$10,000 to finish the Bunker Hill monument.

Religiously, the Jews may be said, in a general way, to hold the ancient faith of their fathers, but they are not united in their views and customs. Modern Judaism has three divisions, not strictly applied nor everywhere applied alike. the Orthodox Jews hold strictly to the Old Testament as the Word of God, and with equal veneration and strictness they observe the traditional body of laws, statutes, and customs expounded by the rabbis of the Talmuds and handed down through the generations by tradition. The codification of these laws and customs, made by Rabbi Joseph Caro in the middle of the sixteenth century, is authoritative in all the minutest details of Jewish life.

The Conservative congregations, in common with the Orthodox, accept both the written and the oral law, but are less strict in their observance.

The Reformed Jews hold a different attitude toward both the acceptance and the observance of the written and oral law. Liberal ideas as to the inspiration of the Bible and the development of revelation and tradition are the rule among them, and great concessions are made to the spirit of the times and the conditions of modern life. In Germany and the United States Sunday services are being introduced in addition to the regular Sabbath observ-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ances, and in a few places, notably Chicago, the Sabbath service has been entirely discarded.

The rites and ceremonies which are generally observed vary. The Sabbath is still strictly observed by the Orthodox. They also rigidly observe the two festivals of New Year and the Day of Atonement in September and October and the Pass-over festival in March or April. The Pentecost festival, at the end of May or the beginning of June, is observed by the Reformed Jews, among whom it is a day of confirmation. The Feast of Tabernacles is still generally observed. The dietary laws of Moses are universally observed by the Orthodox Jews.

The Jews have no religious head. Each congregation is autonomous and a law unto itself. But congregations coöperate in many ways. There is a Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Young Men's Hebrew Association, the National Council of Jewish Women, and other general societies.

According to reports of the U. S. Census Bureau, there were in the United States, in 1926, 2,948 Jewish congregations, having a total membership of 4,087,357. New York has 1,126 congregations, with 1,896,593 members; Illinois, 171 congregations, with 338,179 members; Pennsylvania has 392,544 congregation members; Massachusetts, 213,085; New Jersey, 217,258; and California, 118,024.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

### LATTER-DAY SAINTS, OR MORMONS

THE Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, better known as the Mormon Church, was organized April 6, 1830, at Fayette, Seneca County, N. Y., with six members. Joseph Smith, its founder, was a native of Vermont, whence he moved in boyhood with his parents to Western New York. The elder Smith was known as a roving money digger and water witch, and the family is said to have lived a hand-to-mouth existence. Joseph while a boy took up his father's calling and is reported by his neighbors to have miraculously discovered a "peep stone," by which he claimed to be able to find hidden treasure. This earned him the nickname of "Peep-Stone Joe." His operations carried him frequently into Pennsylvania, where in 1827, at the age of twenty-two, he eloped with and married the daughter of a respectable farmer.

Smith's visions and revelations began when he was only fourteen years of age. Revival meetings had turned his attention to religion, but denominational disputes left him greatly unsettled as to which one of the many Churches he should join. According to his own account, he determined to commit the matter to the Lord in prayer in response to the Scriptural invitation of James i. 5. While thus engaged in the woods near his father's house "he beheld two glorious personages, wrapped in a brilliant

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

light, standing above him in the air." He was told in response to his inquiries that he should join none of the Churches, that all were wrong, and that the true gospel would soon be restored to men. Three years later, "after Joseph had retired for the night and was engaged in prayer, the room was filled with light, and the angel Moroni appeared, who, among other disclosures, revealed the hiding place of certain golden plates, upon which was recorded the fullness of the everlasting gospel." The prophet received these plates from the angel, the date being set down as September 22, 1827, and with the plates "two stones in silver bowls, deposited with the record, constituting what is called the Urim and Thummin, which God had prepared for the purpose of translating the characters of the record." With the aid of these supernatural spectacles Smith translated the record, which was published in 1830 as the Book of Mormon. The plates were returned into the keeping of the angel.

In close association with Smith in the publication of the Book of Mormon and in the organization of the Mormon Church were Sidney Rigdon, Martin Harris, and Oliver Cowdery. Prefixed to the publication is the sworn statement of Harris, Cowdery, and Peter Whitmer that they had seen the plates from which the book had been transcribed. Harris had been in turn a Quaker, Universalist, Baptist,



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

and Presbyterian, but "always a dreamer and fanatic," affirming that he had visited the moon. Harris mortgaged his farm in order to provide for the publication of Smith's book; and as the sale was slow, he forfeited his property. Cowdery was a schoolmaster, who served as Smith's amanuensis. All three witnesses who certified to the authenticity of Smith's manuscript later fell away from Mormonism and declared their previous testimony to be false.

The Book of Mormon has fifteen divisions, or books, which purport to have been written by as many different hands. It sets forth the history of certain imaginary races of people who anciently inhabited America. One tribe, called the "Jaredites," came directly from the Tower of Babel. The second race came directly from the city of Jerusalem. The Jaredites were destroyed. The remnant of the Israelitish settlers are the American Indians. The book teaches that Jesus Christ made his appearance on this continent after his resurrection and planted the true gospel and instituted the sacraments and the order of priesthood and Church powers. But the American people were cut off in consequence of their transgressions, and the last of their prophets, Mormon, was charged with the task of collecting and revising the sacred records. These were then engraved on golden plates, in "Reformed

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Egyptian," and buried at Cumorah, "about 420 A.D."

In 1831 Joseph Smith and a small company of "converts" moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where they found a more inviting field for their doctrines. Missionaries were sent out, and as a result of their labors the new Church numbered within a few months more than twelve hundred members. Communal business enterprises were established, among them a bank, with Smith at its head. The bank failed. Judicial proceedings were begun against the prophet, but in obedience to a revelation he fled to Missouri, whither many of the saints had preceded him.

Smith found his people in sore straits in Missouri, due to the hostility among the "Gentiles," or non-Mormons. The State government assigned the Mormons a place of residence in the thinly settled western portion of the State, and here the town of Far West was founded. The enmity of the Gentiles led to the formation among the Mormons of the "Danite Band," a secret order sworn to obey any behest of the Church against property or life. It was here also that the tithing system was introduced. But peace for the saints was short-lived in the new Zion. The Church leaders came under suspicion of misappropriation of trust funds, and many prominent members forsook the organization.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Conflicts again broke out between Mormons and Gentiles and between the Mormons and the State authorities. A general exodus of the saints followed, about fifteen thousand crossing into Illinois. The troubles of the new sect had attracted wide attention; and as missionaries continued to go far and wide, even to England, bringing in hundreds of recruits and sympathizers, Smith immediately began to plan a new Zion on a larger scale. The tithing system kept the coffers of the Church full. In obedience to a "revelation," he laid out the city of Nauvoo, on the banks of the Mississippi, in Hancock County, Ill. It was the prophet's purpose to found a theocracy, with himself at its head as God's vicegerent. At Nauvoo Smith attained his greatest eminence and power in the Church. His headship was undisputed in both temporal and spiritual affairs of the community. He took the title of "Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, Apostle of Jesus Christ and Elder of the Church." It is recorded that in 1842 eight ships were chartered to transport the converts from England to America. The ambitions of the prophet knew no bounds, and in 1844 he announced for the Presidency of the United States.

It was at Nauvoo that the doctrine of polygamy was first announced. There are evidences that it had been practiced long before in Ohio and Missouri; but owing to the antagonism which it was

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

feared the practice would arouse, it was kept within close bounds until the saints should grow stronger in numbers. At Nauvoo the doctrine seems to have been announced in obedience to a convenient revelation to quiet the indignation of Smith's wife at his profligacy.

But the prophet's career was nearing its close. Internal dissensions arose over the plural wife doctrine and on account of Smith's autocratic government. Riots broke out, and many of the citizens fled. Public indignation ran high among the Gentiles, and a movement was set on foot to drive the Mormons out of the State. Both sides took up arms. Smith and his brother Hyrum were arrested on a charge of treason and lodged in the jail at Carthage. Here, notwithstanding the presence of twelve hundred State militia, on the night of June 27, 1844, a mob assaulted the jail and shot to death Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

After the death of their leader the Mormons split up into different followings, according as rival claimants for the prophetic office were acknowledged. One J. J. Strang loudly proclaimed his right to succeed the prophet and led off a company to Wisconsin, where he established a "kingdom" on an island in Lake Michigan. In 1856 he was shot and killed in a row, and his followers dispersed. The ever-prominent Sidney Rigdon secured a following,

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

but his movement soon came to naught. A still larger company took the name of "Young Josephites," after Joseph Smith, Jr., and formed the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. (See below.) But the main body of the Mormons acknowledged the claims of Brigham Young, "the lion of the Lord."

Young was a man of great native force and ability, but with limited education and wholly without culture. He had embraced Mormonism in New York in 1832 and soon joined the prophet at Kirtland. He had rendered notable service to the Church as missionary, as one of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles (instituted in 1835), and it was he who had directed the movement from Missouri into Illinois during the troublous times of 1838. The crisis in Mormon affairs following Smith's death led to the plan of a migration to a locality beyond the borders of civilization where the saints might be free from molestation. Young organized and conducted the expedition which, beginning in 1846, succeeded by the close of 1848 in transferring the larger body of Mormons to the valley of Great Salt Lake, in Utah.

Brigham Young's administration of the affairs of the Church, beginning in 1844, continued until his death, in 1871, during which time he exercised absolute sway. He not only completed and perfected

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

the Mormon hierarchy and largely refashioned and gave effect to the body of Mormon doctrines, but founded an important State. He extended the missionary forces of the Church and brought into the valley a constant stream of new adherents to the faith. Under the presidency of Brigham Young polygamy became the rule among the Mormons. Young himself was, first and last, the husband of twenty-five wives and the father of fifty-six children.

Since the death of Young the Mormon hierarchy has had at its head successively John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith, a son of Hyrum Smith, and the present incumbent, Heber J. Grant. The system of government in the Church has at its head the President, who succeeds also to the office of "prophet, seer, and revelator" instituted by Joseph Smith. The President, with his two counselors, is called the First Presidency. The Quorum of Twelve Apostles constitutes a sort of traveling episcopacy, or overseers, under the direction of the First Presidency. Next in order are the Seventies, or seventy elders, who are under seven presidents. The seventy elders, with their presidents, constitute the Melchizedek, or Higher Priesthood. The Aaronic, or Lower Priesthood, consists of priests, teachers, and deacons. The territory of the Church is divided into "Stakes of



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Zion," in distinction from Zion proper, which is in Jackson County, Mo., where the saints expect to gather at last to receive the returning Christ. The stakes are divided into wards. Each stake has a complete hierarchy, a miniature copy of that over the entire Church, and each ward has a bishop, who is assisted by under officers.

According to a Mormon statement, their system "consists of doctrines, commandments, ordinances, and rites revealed from God to the present age." The Bible is accepted "in so far as it is correctly translated. We also accept the Book of Mormon as the Word of God." But such liberties have been taken with the Bible as to leave it without any meaning to a Mormon, and the Book of Mormon itself is but a historical relic as an authority in comparison with the body of divinity which has grown up through the revelations of the prophets of Mormonism. "The first principle of Mormonism is belief in a present and progressive revelation." The Mormons have developed a sort of philosophy which justifies polygamy and makes that doctrine, whatever their practice, a necessary article in the faith of a good Mormon. The Mormon theory of God is that he is Adam exalted. Adam "is our father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do," according to Brigham Young. Mormonism teaches that those who build up large polygamous

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

establishments on earth will be advanced to the dignity of gods in the after life and will rule over kingdoms. "God himself was once as we are now," says Joseph Smith, "and is an exalted man. . . . And you have got to learn how to be gods yourselves, the same as other gods have done before you." The Mormon Catechism scouts the idea of one God. "Are there more gods than one? Yes, many." These gods continue to multiply their progeny in the heavenly world by their "celestial wives," the women who were "sealed" to them in this world. The "sealing," or "celestial marriage," ceremony is performed only in the temple at Salt Lake City and is attended by secret rites to which only the faithful are admitted.

Obedience to the priesthood is a cardinal law of the Mormon. Baptism is by immersion and "is unconditionally necessary to salvation." Infant baptism is rejected. The Lord's Supper is observed every Sunday, in which water in later times has displaced the wine. Public worship consists of singing, prayers, and a sermon, which may be on a religious subject or may be a political harangue.

According to the figures of the U. S. Census Bureau the Mormons had, in 1926, 1,275 churches in the United States, with 437,900 members. Naturally, Utah shows the largest membership, with 306,722, followed by Idaho, 83,474; Arizona, 15,991;

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

California, 11,722, and Wyoming, 11,460. But the Mormons have quite a membership even in the far Southern States; as, Georgia, 3,335; South Carolina, 3,090; Florida, 2,554; Texas, 2,863; and Tennessee, 2,187. In missionary work in the United States, Canada, and Europe, nearly 1,100 missionaries are employed. In England there are 150 missionaries and 5,670 members; in all of Europe, 561 missionaries and 32,205 members.

**Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.**—The Reorganized Church was formed by a small body of Mormons who disowned the leadership of Brigham Young and separated from the main body in 1844. The doctrine of polygamy was repudiated and has never been practiced among them. The Book of Mormon is accepted as of divine origin, and Joseph Smith is held as the prophet of the faith. The system of polity is similar to that of the Utah Mormons. The headquarters of the Church are at Lamoni, Ia., where a publishing house, a college, and homes for the aged are maintained. The Church was presided over by Joseph Smith, a son of the first President, until his death at Independence, Mo., in 1914.

Missionary work is carried on in nearly all the States and in many foreign countries. By last reports the Church had 64,367 members. The membership of this branch is largest in Missouri (13,-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

389), Michigan (8,292), Iowa (8,276), and Illinois (4,248).

---

### LUTHERANS

THE Lutheran communion dates from the time of the Reformation and owes its origin and name to the great reformer, Martin Luther. The name was first applied by Rome to all Protestants in derision; but it was not accepted without protest from Luther, whose aim was not to originate a sect or a Church, but to bring about a reform of the entire Roman communion. The work and doctrines of Luther are in a large measure the common inheritance of Protestantism; but the movement begun by him early divided into two branches, the Lutheran and the Reformed, or the conservative and the more radical wing. The more advanced reformers, Zwingli, Calvin, Knox, and others, held that the Lutheran reforms did not go far enough; that they stopped short of a complete break with the corrupt usages and ceremonies of Rome. Doctrinally, the point of greatest divergence between Lutheranism and the Reformed creed is on the sacraments. The Lutherans held to the necessity of baptism to salvation. "Baptism is not simply water," according to a Lutheran authority, "but water comprehended in God's command and connected with God's Word"; and it has a saving ef-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

fect "produced by the Word of God, which accompanies and is connected with the water, and by our faith, which relies on the Word of God connected with the water." The Lutheran doctrine of the Lord's Supper is thus expressed: They believe "in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine during the sacramental fruition," a doctrine usually called by English writers consubstantiation, in distinction from the Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation; but the term is rejected by the Lutherans. "Body and blood are not mixed with nor locally included in, but sacramentally and mysteriously united with, the elements." The Lutheran view of the Scriptures is that they are not only inspired, "but inspiring, possessing not only a normative, but a dynamic, character. In other Protestant systems the sole office of the Word is to point the way of life. In Lutheranism it communicates that whereof it treats." In Lutheran churches "art in the sanctuary is not discarded. The symbolic arrangement and decoration of God's house is encouraged so far as art is expressive of the gospel and impressive as an aid in exciting and deepening faith in it." (Quotations from article "Lutherans," in New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia.)

Lutheranism is the established Church in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Lutherans constitute

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

nearly the whole of the Protestant population of the German States, where its government is in the hands of an ecclesiastical cabinet appointed by the State. The people of Finland and about one-fourth of the population of Switzerland are Lutherans, and this Church is represented in practically every country of Europe, the total number of Lutheran communicants in Europe being about 60,000,000.

Dutch Lutherans were among the first settlers of Manhattan Island, but they were not granted the privileges of worship until the English occupation in 1664. Early Swedish and German immigrants planted Churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The first synod was organized in Pennsylvania in 1748. A general synod was formed in 1820, which aimed at a union of all Lutheran bodies in the United States. But the Lutherans in this country remain split up into a great number of separate bodies, or synods, formed in some instances according to locality and in others on the basis of the language used. The following order shows the comparative strength of various Lutheran bodies according to language used: German, German-English, English, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Icelandic, Finnish.

During recent years the Lutheran bodies have shown a larger percentage of growth than any of the other large Protestant bodies in the United



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

States. This is due in part to immigration; but the Lutherans are very aggressive, and their Church activities are manifold and constantly expanding. The Lutheran bodies maintain parochial schools, more than one hundred colleges and theological seminaries, one of the largest foreign mission forces, large home evangelistic forces, immigrant stations, orphanages, and hospitals. The numerous bodies reporting do not differ materially in doctrine. In polity the sovereignty of the local congregation is recognized, but the synods have a measure of judicial and executive authority.

Following are the various Lutheran bodies in the United States, with the membership of each, as reported in the 1926 "Yearbook of the Churches."

### 1. Bodies Coöperative through National Lutheran Council:

United Lutheran Church.....	850,440
Joint Ohio Synod.....	151,561
Iowa Synod.....	137,792
Buffalo.....	6,520
Jehovah Conference.....	915
Augustana Synod.....	215,705
Norwegian Lutheran Church.....	289,233
Lutheran Free Church.....	30,750
Eielsen's Synod.....	850
Church of Lutheran Brethren.....	1,000
United Danish Church.....	17,660
Danish Church.....	13,125
Icelandic Synod.....	1,485
Suomai Synod (Finnish).....	19,978
Finnish National Church.....	5,000
Finnish Apostolic Church.....	20,000

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

2. Synodical Conference:	
Missouri Synod.....	628,695
Joint Wisconsin Synod.....	139,226
Slovak Synod.....	6,534
Norwegian Synod.....	4,583
Negro Mission.....	2,475
3. Independent Congregations.....	2,600
<hr/>	
Total Lutherans (17 bodies).....	2,546,127

---

## MENNONITES

THE Mennonites are the successors of the Anabaptists, a name given to the scattered elements of a party which arose in Switzerland about 1523. The movement was directed chiefly against infant baptism, and their converts were rebaptized; hence the name. The anabaptists were mercilessly persecuted, and they became divided, one branch going off into mysticism, the other into the wildest fanaticism. The latter undertook to establish the kingdom of God on earth by force. The city of Münster was forcibly taken and made the center of the proposed kingdom. A community of goods was instituted, polygamy was adopted, missionaries were sent out, and threats delivered to the governing princes of surrounding States to surrender on pain of death. Under "King" John of Leyden the Münster fanatics are said to have practiced the grossest licentiousness. The city was reduced in 1535, the leaders executed, and their forces were scattered.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Menno Simons, a converted Roman Catholic priest, who had been a preacher of the sect, but who had opposed the Münster party, succeeded in gathering many of the scattered Münsterites and organizing congregations in the Netherlands and in Germany on a more spiritual basis. His work of reorganization after the Münster disaster led to the new body's taking his name.

The Mennonite Confession of Faith, adopted in Holland in 1632 and which still forms the doctrinal basis of the Church, consists of eighteen articles. These embody the doctrines of the Trinity, the fall of man, and the atonement as held by all evangelical Churches. Among the distinctive doctrines are those of nonresistance and forbidding the use of oaths. Baptism is administered to believers only by pouring, except in one or two branches. The Lord's Supper is observed but twice a year, usually in the spring and fall, preceded by Church examinations into the standing and character of every member. Strict discipline is enforced against offending members. Following the observance of the Lord's Supper, the ceremony of foot-washing is performed, during which, as well as in the "kiss of peace" following the ceremony, the sexes are separated. The bearing of arms and holding office under the State are discouraged.

The Mennonites have bishops, or elders, who

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

exercise administrative oversight in districts. Pastors of congregations are chosen from the congregation to be served, sometimes by lot. Deacons are also chosen from the congregation in the same manner. In the absence of the minister the deacon takes charge of public meetings.

The Mennonites now number throughout the world about 250,000, of which 60,000 are in Holland, 18,000 in Germany, a few in Switzerland and France, 70,000 in Russia, 20,000 in Canada, and a total of 91,603 in the United States, the number in this country being distributed among sixteen branches. Pennsylvania, where Mennonite immigrants first settled in 1683, is still the State of their greatest strength, and here they retain their early language, known as "Pennsylvania Dutch." Mennonites are numerous also in the States of Ohio, Kansas, Indiana, and Illinois. A large number of Canadian Mennonites have during the past few years moved into Mexico, where they attempted to form a colony, with disastrous results.

---

### MESSIANIC WORLD MESSAGE

HERE is another effort to introduce and popularize the mystical Oriental religions by the use of Christian forms and terminology. The Christian Yoga Society was formed at Spokane, Wash., in 1911, by A. K. Mozumdar. This society was dis-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

banded and was succeeded by the Universal Messianic Church, the name of which was changed in 1922 to Messianic World Message.

"The purpose of this Church is to bring about unity with omnipresent God on the part of its members, in imitation of the Great Master, Jesus Christ; to heal the sick by an appeal to God for interposition of divine power; to teach, preach, and demonstrate the great mystery of life; and to endeavor to secure that health and inspiration which comes from living a life close to God." (Statement in Federal Council Yearbook, 1923.)

The headquarters of the organization are at Los Angeles, Calif. A membership of 35,000 is reported, with 25 ministers and 20 churches.

---

### METHODISTS

THE classic account of the rise of Methodism, prepared by the founder himself and set as a preface to the General Rules of his societies, is as follows: "In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired (as did two or three more the next day) that he would spend some time with them in prayer and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

they saw continually hanging over their heads. That they might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together, which from thenceforward they did every week, namely, on Thursday, in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), he gave those advices from time to time which he judged most needful for them; and they always concluded their meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities. This was the rise of the United Society, first in Europe and then in America."

But there were certain steps preceding and leading up to the "rise of the United Society," as Wesley always called his followers, and to trace these we must go back just ten years, to November, 1729, when a small company of Oxford students began to spend certain evenings in the week in reading the New Testament and in prayer. They gave themselves also to many works of charity. The methodical conduct of their lives gained them the name of Methodists, given in derision by their fellow students. The first Methodists were John and Charles Wesley, Robert Kirkham, and William Morgan. George Whitefield was a later accession to the Oxford company. The ruling spirit of this group of Methodists, and the central and dominant figure of Methodism as long as he lived, was John Wesley



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

(born 1703, died 1791). Wesley was well fitted both by birth and training for the place he filled. He had on both sides a distinguished ministerial ancestry, of Nonconformist views, but his father had taken orders in the Church of England. Wesley took his master's degree at Oxford in 1724, was ordained deacon in 1725, and elected a fellow of Lincoln College the following year. He was ordained priest in 1728 and for a short time was curate to his father at Epworth, but was recalled to Oxford. It was during this second residence that he became leader of the Oxford Methodists.

The little Oxford circle is important in Methodist history in that it gave rise to the name and gave expression to a revolt against the spiritual deadness of the times; but these pious students awakened nobody at this time, because they were seeking their own peace by the observance of a punctilious legal righteousness. The Wesleys went to Georgia in 1736, Charles as secretary to General Oglethorpe and John as missionary to the Indians. On the outward voyage John was deeply impressed with the religious views of some Moravian fellow passengers and particularly at the self-possession and trust they displayed during a violent storm. His two years' ministry in Georgia he accounted a failure, and he returned to England with a melancholy view of his own religious condition. He sought

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

out a Moravian society in Aldersgate Street, London, and attended their meetings. It was at one of these on the evening of May 29, 1738, while hearing the reading of Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans, in which the great reformer explained the way of salvation by faith, that Wesley found peace. To use his own words: "I felt my heart strangely warmed; I felt that I did trust in Christ, in Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." "In that moment," says Dr. J. M. Buckley, "evangelical Methodism was born."

Charles Wesley (who had returned to England) and George Whitefield had already enjoyed a new experience and were now preaching salvation by faith, the latter to thousands in the open air. The Wesleys, because of their High Church notions, were cautious on the point of outdoor preaching; but finding the doors of the Established Church closed against them, and observing the eagerness of the masses to hear the gospel, John Wesley soon followed Whitefield's example. The revival spread with wonderful rapidity and with a revolutionary effect upon English life. Wesley became the leader in this movement, as he had been in its forerunner at Oxford, not by self-appointment, but by natural gifts and providential leading. He was soon con-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

fronted with the necessity of caring for thousands of converts for whom the Church of England had no place. Wesley entertained no thought of a new Church and seems to have had no plans beyond meeting the exigencies of the new situation. The first society of converts was brought together in 1739 and attached to a Moravian congregation in Fetter Lane, London. Wesley soon found it necessary to dissent from some doctrines taught by the Moravians, and in the following year he transferred his society to an old and disused government building known as the Foundry, and here in July, 1740, "The Methodist Society in London" was formed. The Foundry was for many years the headquarters of Methodism.

Within five years after his first open-air sermon Wesley had forty-five preachers associated with him in conserving the work of the revival, and there were more than two thousand members of the societies in London alone. Whitefield, who was a staunch Calvinist, broke with Wesley on account of the latter's Arminianism, and a small following of Calvinistic Methodists went with him. The chief contribution of Charles Wesley to the revival and to modern evangelical Christianity was his hymns. A few of Wesley's collaborators were clergymen from the Church of England; but he relied mainly upon the lay preachers raised up by the movement.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

These were unordained itinerating evangelists, who, in the zeal and joy of their new-found life, proclaimed an effective gospel. "After Wesley, laymen were the founders of Methodism," says John Alfred Faulkner. "It was their preaching, their sufferings, their heroism which turned the tide of immorality and irreligion and, as Lecky well says, saved England from a French Revolution."

The thousands of converts, stirred into a new life under this powerful preaching and gathered for the most part from the middle and lower classes, the great neglected population, were brought together in societies, and these divided into classes, over which leaders were appointed for close supervision of the members' spiritual progress. Many chapels were reared to house the new congregations. Wesley grouped together several congregations and put them in charge of one of his assistants, thus originating the circuit system. In 1743 he drew up the General Rules, which are still recognized in every branch of Methodism as a model digest of Scriptural rules of conduct. Wesley had his preachers and leaders meet in quarterly and district conferences and, beginning in 1744, in annual conferences. Every interest of the rapidly expanding movement had over it the trained eye of Wesley himself, whose labors were prodigious. He visited every part of the British Isles, most of the territory over and

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

over again, preached from two to four times daily, and traveled (on horseback until advancing age compelled him to use a carriage) about 4,500 miles a year. He found time for an amazing amount of literary work.

Though the Wesleyan revival was, theoretically, a movement within the Church of England, and both John and Charles Wesley lived and died without ever severing their relations with that communion, the continued inhospitable attitude of the Established Church toward the Methodists made the case only too plain that they must provide for themselves. Wesley reluctantly became reconciled to this fact and accordingly, toward the close of his life, instituted measures to prevent the dissolution of the societies after his death. By the Deed of Declaration, drawn up in 1784, the Yearly Conference was given a permanent legal standing. This act secured the property to the societies and gave all the congregations a permanent connectional existence. But it was not until after Wesley's death (1791) that English Methodism developed into a Church, taking the name of Wesleyan Methodist Connection. The steps taken after the death of Wesley had reference to holding service at church hours, which Wesley had opposed out of regard to the Established Church, receiving the sacraments in their own chapels from their own ministers, lay

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

representation in the conferences, and larger liberties of local societies in the conduct of their own affairs.

In polity Wesleyan Methodism is described as "neither Episcopal, Presbyterian, nor Congregational, but has characteristics of each." The Yearly Conference is the ruling body for the whole connection, subject to conditions laid down in the Deed of Declaration. It is a threefold conference, being in part an assembly of pastors, having to do with questions pertaining to the ministry; in part "it is a conjoint assembly of ministers and lay brethren convened to receive reports, deliberate and determine in regard to the general interest of the connection." And at the close the "Legal Conference, as a matter of necessary legal form and solemnity, adopts what has been done in the sessions of the General Conference." The provincial "synod" occupies a place intermediate to the conference and the local, or circuit, meetings. The synod may nullify an act of the conference by refusing to ratify it. The administration of the affairs of each society is vested in the leaders' meeting; that of the whole circuit in a quarterly meeting composed of the lay officers of the circuit. There is also a local preachers' quarterly meeting, presided over by the "superintendent minister" of the circuit.

Divisions in English Methodism have given rise



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

to (1) the Calvinistic Methodists, noted above (after Whitefield's death these divided, one branch being known as Lady Huntingdon's Connection. It has disappeared. The branch that survives is the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists. See "Presbyterians"); (2) the Methodist New Connection, formed in 1797; (3) the Primitive Methodist Connection, 1810; (4) the Bible Christians, 1815; (5) the Protestant Methodists, 1828; (6) the Wesleyan Methodist Association, 1835. The most serious division occurred in 1849-57, when a number of ministers and 120,000 members left the main body on account of the autocratic rule of Jabez Bunting, the President of the Conference. These joined in union with the Protestant Methodists and Association Methodists and formed the United Methodist Church. The three main bodies of Methodists at the present time are the Wesleyan Methodists, the Primitive Methodists, and the United Methodists. There is a small body known as the Wesleyan Reform Union and a number of independent Methodist Churches.

Methodism in European countries is represented by Conferences and Missions affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church of America. The latest returns show: Denmark, 4,575 members; Finland, 3,073; Norway, 7,533; Sweden, 16,517. In the "Paris Area," including France and Italy, 8,112

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

members; in the "Zurich Area," including Switzerland, Germany, and Russia, 57,899.

For British Methodism, and foreign connections related to it, the following statistics are taken from the Methodist Yearbook for 1928:

Denomination.	Ministers.	Lay Preachers.	Members and Pro- bationers.
Wesleyan Methodists:			
Great Britain.....	2,500	19,024	519,510
Ireland.....	242	602	29,590
Foreign Missions.....	747	11,149	287,759
French Conference.....	26	63	1,757
South African Conference....	282	5,942	169,583
Primitive Methodists.....	1,087	13,456	220,806
United Methodist Church.....	713	4,735	153,857
Wesleyan Reform Union.....	26	504	10,178
Independent Methodist Churches	388	.....	10,502
Australasian Methodist Church.	136	8,036	166,101
New Zealand Methodist Church	190	816	29,425
Total, English Methodists, branches and missions.....	6,337	64,327	1,599,068

The first Methodist society in America was organized in New York in 1766 as a result of the preaching of Philip Embury, an Irish local preacher, who was aroused to duty by Barbara Heck, another Irish immigrant. To Barbara Heck, who is called the mother of American Methodism, is due also the planting of the cause in Canada, whither she removed with her family in 1774. Embury in New York was soon reënforced by Thomas Webb, an English local preacher and captain in the British army. The work prospered, occupying at first Embury's house, then an old sail loft, and in 1768 its

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

own church building, "Wesley Chapel," now John Street Church. About the same time Robert Strawbridge, another Irish immigrant, started an awakening in Maryland by his preaching, assisted by Robert Williams, who became the apostle of Methodism in Virginia and the Carolinas. Strawbridge built a log meetinghouse on Sam's Creek, in Maryland, which contests with the New York chapel the honor of being the first Methodist church in the New World.

Captain Webb planted Methodism in Philadelphia and formed classes in New Jersey and other parts. Webb returned to England, and it was through his influence that Wesley's attention was directed to the needs in America. At the conference in 1769 Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor were appointed to assist their brethren on this side, and they brought over £50 which had been collected at the conference "as a token of brotherly love" for the assistance of the American societies. Francis Asbury and Richard Wright were sent over in 1771, Asbury coming as "assistant superintendent" of the new societies. Asbury was soon superseded by Thomas Rankin, who arrived with Wesley's authority to become "superintendent of the entire work of Methodism in America." To Rankin belongs the distinction of convening and presiding over the first conference in America, held in

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Philadelphia in 1773. Ten preachers were present, and 1,560 members were reported, the bulk of them being in Maryland and Virginia. The list of appointments made at that conference was as follows: New York, Thomas Rankin; Philadelphia, George Shadford; New Jersey, John King and William Watters; Baltimore, Francis Asbury, Robert Strawbridge, Abraham Whitworth, and Joseph Yearby; Norfolk, Richard Wright; Petersburg, Robert Williams. The conference acknowledged the authority of Wesley and the British Conference and resolved that the preachers should strictly avoid administering the sacraments, as not one of them had been ordained.

The Methodists in America prior to the Revolution, like their brethren in England before Wesley's death, regarded themselves as members of the Church of England, and they depended upon a grudging English clergy for the sacraments. But during the war most of the English clergy left the country, and when independence was secured the Established Church came to an end in America. The war had separated the societies from this Church, and it was inevitable that they should now become independent of English Methodism and set up for themselves. The question of administering the ordinances had been up at nearly every conference since the first, but "laid over for another year,"

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

until at the conference—or a branch of it representing the Southern colonies—held at Fluvanna, Va., in 1779 it was resolved to refuse the people the ordinances no longer. The next year the practice was given up in response to overtures from Asbury and other brethren. “Certainly it was a modest rôle the early Methodists were content to play—to bring the people to Jesus and send them to the Episcopalians and Presbyterians for the sacraments. But it was a rôle that could not in the nature of things be permanent. For look at the increase, 2,035 in this fifth year of the war, making 10,539 in all, and fifty-five preachers.” (Faulkner, “The Methodists.”) This anomalous condition came to an end in 1784, the same year that marks the practical settlement of English Methodism by the Deed of Declaration. Wesley’s famous account of the steps he took and the reasons therefor in response to the appeals of the American societies is, with slight abridgment, as follows:

By a very uncommon train of providences many of the provinces of America are totally disjoined from the mother country and erected into independent States. The English government has no authority over them, either civil or ecclesiastical. . . . No one either exercises or claims any ecclesiastical authority at all. In this peculiar situation some of the inhabitants of these States desire my advice, and in compliance with their desire I have drawn up a little sketch.

Lord King’s account of the Primitive Church convinced me, many years ago, that bishops and presbyters are the same



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

order and consequently have the same right to ordain. For many years I have been importuned from time to time to exercise this right by ordaining a part of our preachers. But I have still refused, not only for peace' sake, but because I was determined as little as possible to violate the established order of the national Church to which I belonged.

But the case is widely different between England and North America. Here there are bishops who have a legal jurisdiction; in America there are none, neither any parish minister. So that for some hundreds of miles together there are none either to baptize or to administer the Lord's Supper. Here, therefore, my scruples are at an end; and I conceive myself at full liberty, as I violate no order and invade no man's rights, by appointing and sending laborers into the harvest.

I have, accordingly, appointed Dr. Coke and Mr. Francis Asbury to be joint superintendents of our brethren in America, as also Richard Whatcoat and Thomas Vasey to act as elders among them by baptizing and administering the Lord's Supper. . . .

If any one will point out a more rational and Scriptural way of feeding and guiding these poor sheep in the wilderness, I will gladly embrace it. At present I cannot see any better method than that I have taken. . . . I desired the Bishop of London to ordain one, but I could not prevail. . . . If they could ordain them now, they would expect to govern them; and how grievously this would entangle us! As our American brethren are now disentangled both from the State and English hierarchy, we dare not entangle them again, either with the one or the other. They are now at full liberty simply to follow the Scriptures and the Primitive Church. And we judge it best that they should stand fast in that liberty wherewith God has so strangely set them free.

In fulfillment of their appointed mission Coke, Whatcoat, and Vasey arrived in America in 1784 and immediately got in touch with Asbury and



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

other leaders. A conference was called which convened in Baltimore on December 24 of that year. Coke presided and unfolded Wesley's plan. The conference readily and unanimously fell in with it and proceeded with the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Wesley's appointment of Coke and Asbury as superintendents was confirmed by election of the Conference, and Asbury was ordained deacon, elder, and superintendent, and other deacons and elders were ordained, Coke being assisted in the ordinations by Whatcoat and Vasey. A discipline was adopted, containing the General Rules and Articles of Religion, abridged by Wesley from the Thirty-Nine Articles, the new form being stripped of all distinctly Catholic and Calvinistic elements, and a liturgy, also prepared by Wesley. The liturgy was never much used in the Churches and soon dropped out of notice entirely. The same is true also of "gowns and bands, which had a brief vogue." The salary of the regular preachers was fixed at sixty-four dollars a year, with an extra allowance for wife and children, but "with distinct prohibition of any fee or present for marriages, baptisms, or funerals." A fund for worn-out preachers was established, supported mainly by the active preachers.

The Church now set on its way had 104 traveling preachers, as many local preachers, 60 churches, 800

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

recognized preaching places, and 18,000 members. (Buckley.) "Coke went everywhere, baptizing children and administering the Lord's Supper, as did Asbury wherever opportunity offered." In 1787 the superintendents took the title of bishop "for brevity's sake," and the Conference approved. Coke soon returned to England, making thereafter only brief visits to America; and the direction of the new and rapidly expanding organization came to be centered in Asbury, "the chief figure in the religious history of the United States in the visible and traceable results of his labors," according to a non-Methodist observer. In truth, the travels, labors, and close oversight of Asbury in America matched the work of Wesley in England. "For forty years under Asbury the headquarters of American Methodism was in the saddle." He traveled 270,000 miles, ordained over 4,000 preachers, and presided in 234 Annual Conferences. Names next to that of Asbury in the early history of American Methodism are those of Jesse Lee, who entered New England in 1789 and after eleven years left that country with fifty preachers and six thousand members, and William McKendree, who, as a pioneer presiding elder, established Methodism in the Western and Southwestern States and after his elevation to the episcopacy in 1808 left a marked impression on the whole Church as a preacher and executive.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

The Conference of 1784 adjourned without making provision for another General Conference. But Conferences embracing the whole Church were held irregularly until 1812, when the first delegated General Conference came into existence. Annual Conferences—referring to geographical districts—date from 1796, when the territory of the Church was first mapped out into Conferences with names and definite boundaries. The office of presiding elder and the presiding elders' districts grew out of the appointment and ordination of a number of elders at the Conference of 1784 to travel over a group of circuits to administer the sacraments.

The harmony among Methodists which characterized the inauguration of their system of Church government did not remain long undisturbed. At the Conference of 1792 the Rev. James O'Kelley introduced a resolution proposing to give the preachers the right of appeal to the Conference if aggrieved at an appointment. O'Kelley was a presiding elder from Virginia, at that time the banner Methodist State, and he had a considerable following which gave his resolution warm support. But it failed; and, smarting under its failure and smarting at Bishop Asbury, "whose wings O'Kelley had purposed to clip," O'Kelley left the Conference, accompanied by a few of his adherents, and returned to Virginia. A new sect was formed, taking the name

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

of Republican Methodists. These later became one of the elements forming another denomination. (See "Christian Connection.")

The agitation for larger privileges of laymen in the Church came up for consideration at the General Conference of 1828. An effort was made to obtain lay representation in the Church councils, but the proposal was rejected. The agitation did not cease, but continued until many of the reformers were expelled from the Church, and many others left out of sympathy. At a meeting of these, held in Baltimore in 1828, a provisional Church organization was formed, which, two years later at a more largely attended Conference in the same city, was completed as the Methodist Protestant Church. Within a few years the new organization drew away 50,000, many prominent ministers and laymen among them. The laymen were given full rights in all Church councils, a reform which has since been adopted in other branches of Methodism. The Methodist Protestant has come to be the largest body of nonepiscopal Methodists in the United States.

The slavery question produced the next disturbance in Methodist history, dividing the Church seventeen years before it divided the nation. Prior to the division of the Church, however, a small but radical antislavery and antisecret society element

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

split off and formed at Utica, N. Y., May 31, 1843, the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America. The episcopate was rejected, the itinerancy modified, laymen were introduced into their Conferences, and connection with slavery or secret societies was prohibited. The Church began with about 6,000 members, which increased in less than two years to 15,000; but after slavery was abolished thousands of its members returned to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The "bisection" of the Church occurred in 1844 and was occasioned by the case of James O. Andrew, a Southern bishop who had become by marriage and inheritance a slaveholder. The General Conference of that year passed a resolution requesting Bishop Andrew to "desist from the exercise of his office so long as this impediment remains." The Southern delegates presented a protest on behalf of "nearly 5,000 ministers and a membership of nearly 500,000 constitutionally represented" in the Conference. A plan of separation was adopted, and after the adjournment of the General Conference the Southern delegates met and decided to hold the matter of a separate organization in abeyance until a convention of representatives of all the Southern Conferences could be held. A convention was called, which met at Louisville, Ky., in May, 1845.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

At this meeting the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, began its existence as a separate body.

At the Christmas Conference in 1784 three elders were ordained for missionary work, two of them for Nova Scotia and one for Antigua, West Indies. At this Conference also Thomas Coke, who was deeply imbued with the missionary spirit, raised what was perhaps the first missionary collection in this country, amounting to \$150. Coke, by his tireless interest in foreign missions and by his own many voyages and sacrifices in the interest of the cause, left a permanent impression upon both English and American Methodism. In 1813 he set out for India to establish a mission there, but died and was buried at sea. Methodist foreign missions had been carried on for a generation, and there were upward of one hundred missionaries in the field before a missionary society was ever formed. The Bible and Missionary Society was founded in 1819, changed to the Missionary Society in 1820, and continued so until 1907, when it was succeeded by the Board of Foreign Missions and the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension. The year 1919, marking the centennial of the organization of the first Methodist missionary society in this country, was observed in both the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by special missionary campaigns which provided a



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

five-year fund of more than \$80,000,000 in the Northern Church and about \$50,000,000 in the Southern. The Church, North, in connection with its Centenary special, undertook to raise also \$25,000,000 for War Reconstruction and an increased apportionment for the other Boards of the Church, making a total five-year budget of \$113,725,000.

The Christmas Conference of 1784 also considered the "project of a college." The first venture was Cokesbury College, near Baltimore, opened in 1787, destroyed by fire in 1797, and never rebuilt. Bethel Academy, founded near Lexington, Ky., in 1794, continues to exist, but after 1805 ceased to be a strictly Methodist school. Alleghany College, Meadville, Pa., was founded in 1815-17; Ohio Wesleyan University was opened in 1831. Other leading institutions of the Methodist Episcopal Church are: Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., with a plant valuation of more than \$5,000,000 and endowments of nearly \$6,000,000; Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.; De Pauw University, Greencastle, Ind.; Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.; and Boston University. Drew Theological Seminary (Madison, N. J.), Garrett Biblical Institute (Evanston, Ill.), and the Boston University School of Theology are the leading seminaries. The Church owns, all told, 45 colleges and universities, 32 secondary schools, 10 theological seminaries, 28

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

professional and graduate schools, 80 hospitals, 38 homes for the aged, 45 homes for children, and 11 miscellaneous benevolent institutions.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held its first General Conference at Petersburg, Va., in May, 1846. It began its separate existence with 1,519 traveling preachers, 2,833 local preachers, 327,284 white members, 124,961 colored members, and 2,972 Indian members. A missionary society was organized and a mission in China projected. The Church increased rapidly in membership until the time of the war. At the General Conference which met in New Orleans in 1866, the first held since 1858, the statistics showed a loss in membership of 246,044. "The Missionary Society of the Church was \$60,000 in debt and the Publishing House practically in ruins. Of the 207,766 colored members in 1860 in the Southern body, there remained at the close of the war only 48,742." But "the reconstructive spirit of this Conference and the statesmanship manifested . . . were a prophecy that the ravages of the war would soon be repaired." At this Conference the colored membership of the Church was set off into colored Conferences, and these were, by mutual consent, organized into the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in 1870.

The Missionary Society formed at the first General Conference was divided into Foreign and Do-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

mestic Boards in 1866; but in 1870 these were merged into the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which administers both home and foreign work. The headquarters of the Board are at Nashville, Tenn. There is a separate Church Extension Board, located at Louisville, Ky. A Board of Finance, located at St. Louis, is engaged in raising an endowment fund of \$10,000,000 for superannuated preachers, their widows and orphans. The Board of Education of the Church instituted a movement in 1921 for a large educational fund, and on this nearly \$18,000,000 was pledged.

By a court decision in 1914 the Church lost control of its one university—Vanderbilt, at Nashville, Tenn. To repair the loss the General Conference of that year provided for the establishment of Emory University, at Atlanta, Ga. It has accumulated property holdings valued at \$2,590,000, and an endowment of \$2,650,000, and has 1,250 students. Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex., launched by the Texas Conferences, and later adopted by the General Conference as the university of the Church west of the Mississippi, opened its doors in 1915. It has now more than 2,000 students, property valuations of \$2,169,000, and an endowment of \$1,764,000. Duke University, formerly Trinity College, at Durham, N. C., under the magnificent benefactions of James B. Duke, promises to

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

become one of the educational giants of the country. A total building fund of \$19,000,000 has been provided by the Duke gifts, and for an endowment the institution shares largely in a \$40,000,000 trust fund. Southwestern University (Georgetown, Tex.), Central College (Fayette, Mo.), Millsaps College (Jackson, Miss.), the Randolph-Macon Colleges in Virginia, and Texas Woman's College (Fort Worth) are the leading colleges. Theological seminaries are conducted in connection with the universities at Atlanta and Dallas. The Church owns about thirty higher institutions and a large number of secondary schools, ten hospitals (not including those in mission fields), and 24 orphanages.

The foundation doctrines of Methodism are those commonly held by all evangelical Churches. But in Wesley's time "certain doctrines of the New Testament were neglected by the clergy and the Churches and robbed of their true proportion and emphasis, and these doctrines, which he considered vital to the spread of a pure Christianity, he expounded, preached, and published." The peculiar doctrines of Methodism, therefore, have been from the beginning of its history those preached and expounded by John Wesley. These are found in Wesley's Notes on the New Testament and in his published sermons. In American Methodism these standards are supplemented by the Twenty-Five

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Articles of Religion which Wesley abridged from the English articles. But Wesley's work was not so much creed-building as preaching, with the one thing of salvation of souls in view. And in this the Church which he founded has retained his spirit and purpose. The emphasis placed on preaching goes far to explain the success of the Methodist movement. "At a time when the prevailing type of Christianity was Calvinistic the Methodists came with the gospel of a free, full, and present salvation, which they preached with tremendous earnestness and without philosophical refinement."

The ten propositions of Bishop John H. Vincent express in an admirable manner the beliefs of Methodists. They are as follows:

1. I believe that all men are sinners.
2. I believe that God the Father loves all men and hates all sin.
3. I believe that Jesus Christ died for all men, to make possible their salvation from sin and to make sure the salvation of all who believe in him.
4. I believe that the Holy Spirit is given to all men to enlighten and to incline them to repent of their sins and to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. I believe that all who repent of their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ receive the forgiveness of sins. This is justification.
6. I believe that all who receive the forgiveness of sins are at the same time made new creatures in Christ Jesus. This is regeneration.
7. I believe that all who are made new creatures in Christ Jesus are accepted as children of God. This is adoption.

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

8. I believe that all who are accepted as the children of God may receive the inward assurance of the Holy Spirit to that fact. This is the witness of the Spirit.

9. I believe that all who truly desire and seek it may love God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength, and their neighbors as themselves. This is entire sanctification.

10. I believe that all who persevere to the end, and only these, shall be saved in heaven forever.

The membership of the three leading (white) Methodist bodies in the United States is given below by States, according to reports of the U. S. Census Bureau for 1926. The 1927-28 Conference totals from Methodist yearbooks, being more recent, are slightly higher, and these later Conference totals are submitted at the end of the 1926 State tables.

	Methodist Episcopal Church (North).	Methodist Episcopal Church, South.	Methodist Protestant Church.
Alabama.....	24,283	197,219	7,392
Arizona.....	4,937	4,290.....	
Arkansas.....	10,452	123,676	5,439
California.....	116,974	17,521	.....
Colorado.....	46,974	2,787	.....
Connecticut.....	38,139	.....	90
Delaware.....	29,351	.....	4,466
District of Columbia.....	16,910	6,306	1,383
Florida.....	19,748	74,242	374
Georgia.....	26,126	249,722	3,115
Idaho.....	12,788	370	.....
Illinois.....	333,280	6,201	4,645
Indiana.....	283,181	.....	8,838
Iowa.....	206,689	.....	2,484
Kansas.....	177,165	1,281	1,304
Kentucky.....	31,003	120,458	1,407
Louisiana.....	19,515	56,882	3,160
Maine.....	22,938	.....	.....
Maryland.....	118,426	17,616	22,014
Massachusetts.....	84,929	.....	.....
Michigan.....	165,064	.....	4,945



# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

	Methodist Episcopal Church (North).	Methodist Episcopal Church, South.	Methodist Protestant Church.
Minnesota.....	71,897	.....	.....
Mississippi.....	41,254	134,573	4,668
Missouri.....	93,772	126,334	3,547
Montana.....	14,972	893	.....
Nebraska.....	92,820	.....	.....
New Hampshire.....	14,018	.....	.....
New Jersey.....	141,244	.....	4,755
New Mexico.....	3,914	8,848	.....
New York.....	345,307	.....	3,804
Nevada.....	1,084	.....	.....
North Carolina.....	26,895	249,915	26,922
North Dakota.....	14,706	.....	.....
Ohio.....	434,905	.....	23,326
Oklahoma.....	51,304	75,771	1,966
Oregon.....	32,135	2,493	.....
Pennsylvania.....	452,145	.....	16,336
Rhode Island.....	9,304	.....	.....
South Carolina.....	47,749	135,129	1,987
South Dakota.....	29,514	.....	.....
Tennessee.....	60,651	189,830	1,570
Texas.....	42,959	380,453	4,852
Utah.....	2,198	.....	.....
Vermont.....	16,950	.....	.....
Virginia.....	22,841	237,903	5,004
Washington.....	48,140	564	.....
West Virginia.....	94,161	65,058	21,702
Wisconsin.....	73,143	.....	.....
Wyoming.....	6,923	.....	.....
Other States.....	.....	845	.....
Totals.....	4,080,777	2,487,694	191,495

Methodist Episcopal Church, total membership in United States reported to November 1, 1927 (Methodist Yearbook, 1928), 4,126,356; an increase of 27,402 over the previous year.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South, total membership for United States reported to January 1, 1928 (General Minutes, 1928), 2,567,962; an increase of 29,699 over the previous year.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

### **Other Methodist Bodies**

Wesleyan Methodist (see page 135): Membership, 21,000.

Congregational Methodist, organized in Georgia in 1852 by ministers and members withdrawing from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on account of dissatisfaction with certain features of Church polity: Membership, 9,691.

New Congregational Methodist (originated in Georgia in 1881): Report for 1916, 1,256 members.

Primitive Methodist (a branch of the primitive Methodist Church of England, strongest in Pennsylvania): Membership, 11,905.

Free Methodist: Organized in New York in 1860 by ministers and members who had been expelled or had withdrawn from the Methodist Episcopal Church on account of differences concerning membership in secret societies and doctrinal questions. The new Church held that sanctification is instantaneous and subject to regeneration. The Church is strongest in Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, and California. Membership, 36,374.

Reformed Methodist: The U. S. Census Bureau reports 14 churches under this name, with 390 members, 12 of the churches being found in the State of New York.

### **Colored Methodist Bodies**

African Methodist Episcopal Church. Formed at Philadelphia in 1815, on the ground that "white

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

preachers could not longer maintain pastoral responsibility for colored congregations." Until the close of the Civil War it existed only in the Northern States, but its largest membership is now to be found in the Southern States. Membership, 698,029.

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Formed in 1796 in New York by colored seceders from the old John Street Church. Differs in polity from other branches of Episcopal Methodism in permitting ordination of women, and presiding elders are elected, on nomination of the bishop. Membership, 490,000, strongest in the Southern States.

Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. Organized in 1870 at Jackson, Tenn., and composed of the colored membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Present membership, 342,000.

Union American Methodist Episcopal. Membership, 21,115.

Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal. Membership, 2,272.

African Union Methodist Protestant. Membership, 25,000.

Reformed Zion Union Apostolic. Membership, 8,500.

Colored Methodist Protestant: Membership, 1,967.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

African American Methodist Episcopal: Membership, 5,811.

Free Christian Zion Church of Christ. Organized in Arkansas in 1905 by a company of ministers from the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and also from negro Baptist Churches, the new Church being organized in protest against the financial system of some of the Churches. By the United States Census reports of 1916 the organization has 29 ministers, 35 churches, and 6,225 members. This Church, however, is usually classified as a separate body, and its membership is not included in Methodist totals.

Total membership, all Methodist bodies in the United States, including ministers and local preachers, 9,548,542 (Methodist Yearbook, 1928).

United Church of Canada, 692,348.

Japan Methodist Church, 29,420.

Total for the world, 11,869,388 (Yearbook, 1928).

---

### MILLENNIAL DAWNISTS, OR RUSSELLITES

A NAME somewhat generally applied to the followers of Charles T. Russell or to those who accept his theories. In 1866 appeared the first volume of a series of religious books by Russell, the whole

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

series bearing the title of "Millennial Dawn." The books treat of the second coming of Christ, man's redemption and restitution, and the millennial reign of Christ on earth. The title of the books has been changed to "Studies in the Scriptures," and all the literature issued by the movement bears titles calculated to allay suspicion and to commend the propaganda of Mr. Russell and his followers to the Christian public," as "People's Pulpit of Brooklyn," "International Bible Students' League," "Brooklyn Tabernacle," and "Bible House and Tract Society." The works of Russell have been translated into many languages, and an enormous circulation is claimed for them.

The following is a summary of the doctrines of the Millennial Dawnists (from "Millennial Dawn: A Counterfeit of Christianity," by Prof. William G. Morehead, D.D., in the *Fundamentals*):

1. Christ before his advent was not divine.
2. When he was in the world he was still not divine.
3. His atonement was exclusively human, a mere man's.
4. Since his resurrection he is divine only, no longer human at all.
5. His body was not raised from the dead.
6. His second advent took place in 1874.
7. The saints were raised up in 1878.
8. Both Christ and the saints are now on earth and have been since the above dates.
9. The professing Christian Church was rejected of God in 1878.
10. The final consummation and end will take place in 1914.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

11. There is silence as to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

12. As to the destiny of the wicked. (The finally impenitent to be annihilated.)

Referring to the disposition of Christ's body at the resurrection, "Millennial Dawn" is quoted as follows: "Our Lord's human body was supernaturally removed from the tomb; because had it remained there, it would have been an insurmountable obstacle to the faith of the disciples. . . . We know nothing about what became of it, except that it did not decay or corrupt. Whether it was dissolved into gases or whether it is still preserved somewhere, . . . no one knows; nor is such knowledge necessary."

Concerning the final consummation of the age, October, 1914, was fixed by Russell as terminating absolutely the present order of things. "Dozens of times the writer of these books sets it down as positive and unalterable. . . . It is then that the millennium, so long expected and so long yearned after, finally comes, and the planet celebrates its glad, its unending jubilee."

Says Professor Morehead, referring to Russell's teaching on the destiny of the wicked: "The grotesque subject of one of his most popular lectures, a lecture he has delivered throughout our country, in Canada, and also in England, and published in a



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

vast number of papers and periodicals, is 'To Hell and Back Again.' Crowds have listened with no little satisfaction to his assertions that there is no hell, no eternal punishment, and no hopelessness after death. He holds that in the resurrection, which is to include both the righteous and the wicked, the gospel of salvation shall be preached to all who did not receive it, though having heard, while in this life and to those who never had an opportunity while in the earthly life to hear and believe. For one hundred years the preaching to these classes shall continue, and the great mass of them will believe and enter into eternal life. Those who persistently refuse the offer of salvation and reject the Lord's mercy will be annihilated; an act of divine power will blot them out of existence forever."

The adherents of the Russell teachings are not organized into Churches or societies, and there is no report as to their number or their activities.

---

### MORAVIANS (UNITAS FRATRUM)

THE Moravians trace their history back to John Huss, the Bohemian reformer, who was burned as a heretic at the Council of Constance in 1415. The followers of Huss, known as Hussites, were divided into three branches, two of which made peace with the Roman Church and reëntered that communion.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

The third held out as an independent body coming to be called the Bohemian Brethren. They were relentlessly persecuted and scattered, but the remnant at length found an asylum under the protection of Count Zinzendorf in Saxony. They founded the town of Herrnhut, which remains the Moravian center in Europe.

Zinzendorf is regarded as the founder of the re-organized Moravian Church, or *Unitas Fratrum* (Unity of the Brethren). He was ordained bishop of the Moravians without, however, severing his relation with the Lutheran Church, of which he had been ordained a minister. Under Zinzendorf's influence the Moravian colony, by separation from the world and diligent use of spiritual exercises, became a deeply religious society. But the society developed without any purpose of separation from the State Church or of denominational expansion, being similar in this particular to the rise of the Methodist societies in the Church of England. And the Wesleyan movement in England was indebted in many respects to the Moravians, as John Wesley was deeply impressed on many occasions with the Moravian doctrines and life, and after his conversion he visited Herrnhut and studied the system of this colony.

The Moravians established other communities on the Continent, in England, and America, sent out

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

missionaries to the heathen, and founded schools for the benefit of those not members of the society. A characteristic feature of early Moravian history was its inner mission work, or *Diaspora*, in which they sought to convert individual members of the State Church without drawing them from that communion.

The Moravian Church was planted in America by immigrants who landed in Georgia in 1735. Five years later this company removed to Pennsylvania, where the towns of Bethlehem and Nazareth were founded. A form of communism was adopted, which, after twenty years, was abolished. These colonists were active in missionary labors among the Indians in their own and neighboring States.

The Moravian Brethren were the first Protestants to send missionaries to the heathen, and they have been noted for their missionary labors, particularly in hard and neglected fields. They planted a mission in Greenland in 1733 and in 1900 transferred this mission to the Danish Lutheran Church, "there being no more professed heathen in this region." They maintain missions in Alaska and Labrador, among the Indians of North America, the negroes of the West Indies, in Nicaragua, British and Dutch Guiana, Cape Colony, German East Africa, Australia, and among the Tibetan people of Asia. They have a leper home near Jerusalem. Besides

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

their missionary operations, the Moravians are forward in education, maintaining thirty-three schools, colleges, and seminaries.

The Moravian Church is divided into four provinces for governmental purposes—the German, British, and the provinces in North and South America. The local affairs of each province are administered by a synod. The synod elects the executive board, which is composed of bishops and other ministers, and this board appoints the ministers to the various congregations. Every ten years a general synod convenes, composed of representatives from all the provinces and missions.

In doctrine the Moravians believe in the total depravity of human nature. They emphasize the love of God, the divinity of Jesus Christ, justification by faith only, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the fellowship of believers, and the second coming of Christ. There are three orders of ministers—bishops, presbyters, and deacons. In worship they observe ritualistic forms. The Church maintains a strict discipline among its members.

In the United States there are 153 ministers, 128 churches, and 24,699 members. In a small body known as the Union Bohemians and Moravians there are 3,105 members. A small branch known as the Independent Bohemian and Moravian Brethren has 312 members. The Moravians have in the

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

world, including membership in missions, 88 ministers, or, including native helpers, 3,037 and 146,601 members. This does not include about 75,000 "society members," or members in the *Diaspora* societies.

---

### NAZARENES (CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE)

THIS body resulted from a union formed at Chicago, Ill., in October, 1907, of several Pentecostal, or Holiness, associations in the Eastern States and the Church of the Nazarene, another Holiness body, of California. In 1908 the Holiness Church of Christ, an organization of Holiness societies in the Southwest, went into the union. The membership of the associations forming the union had been drawn mainly from Methodist bodies, and the new Church shows a doctrinal kinship to the Methodists. Emphasis is placed upon the depravity of the race, the doctrine of entire sanctification as a work of grace subsequent to regeneration, and the second coming of Christ. The Church opposes the use of alcoholic drinks and tobacco and membership in secret societies.

The Church has grown rapidly since the union was accomplished, having when the union was completed, in 1908, 575 ministers, 230 churches, and 12,000 members, and in 1926 it had 1,444 churches

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

and 63,598 members. The largest membership is found in California (6,115), Oklahoma (5,634), Indiana (5,302), Ohio (4,990), and Texas (4,956). It has missions in several foreign countries and is very active in evangelistic work in the homeland.

The general assembly and district assemblies are the connectional bodies of the Church. The general assembly elects "general superintendents," who preside in the assemblies, arrange assembly districts, ordain elders, appoint evangelists, and have general supervision of the work of the Church. The Church has colleges at Bethany, Okla., Wollaston, Mass., Olivet, Ill., Nampa, Idaho, Pasadena, Calif., Nashville, Tenn., and secondary schools at Hamlin, Tex., and Hutchinson, Kans. Publishing interests and headquarters of this body are located at Kansas City, Mo.

---

### PRESBYTERIANS

THE term Presbyterian, or Presbyterianism, strictly applied, refers only to a form of Church government and is not properly applicable to a system of doctrine or to forms of worship. The doctrinal system known as Calvinism, while usually associated with Presbyterianism, is held by many Churches not Presbyterian in government; and, on the other hand, there are Presbyterian bodies that profess other doctrines than Calvinism. The Pres-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

byterian Alliance, or Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the World Holding the Presbyterian System, expresses the common basis of fellowship among these Churches. The Alliance embraces one hundred and six organizations, Presbyterian and Reformed, having a total membership of about 8,800,000, not counting adherents.

John Calvin (1509-64), the Geneva reformer, was the founder of the Presbyterian system, and his teachings form the basis of the doctrinal standards of nearly all Presbyterian bodies. Calvin never founded a distinct denomination, but he expounded and put into practice the principles which in other countries and in other hands developed into the Presbyterian denominations. Calvin's influence was extended by the wide circulation of his writings and by a large number of preachers and reformers who from time to time visited Geneva from other lands.

A noted visitor to Geneva was John Knox, of Scotland, who had previously embraced the evangelical doctrines. Knox spent eighteen months at Geneva, while an exile from his native land, and became a close friend and disciple of Calvin. Upon his return to Scotland (1555) Knox stirred the nobles and gentry by his fiery preaching, and as a result they united in 1557 in the first covenant, renouncing "the congregation of Satan, with all super-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

stitutions, abominations, and idolatries thereof," and engaging to defend the Protestant faith. Three years later the Scotch Parliament abolished the Roman Catholic system and filled the places of the Roman clergy with Protestant ministers. Parliament also adopted a Confession of Faith, which was chiefly the work of John Knox and Calvinistic in theology. In the same year the first General Assembly met, which adopted a book of Discipline. This also reflects the influence of Knox; and while "it shows the effect of Knox's stay in Geneva, it likewise shows that Knox had a mind of his own," as the Genevan discipline was much altered. But in 1578 this book of Discipline was displaced by another, which "embodied the purest type of Presbyterianism which had yet been set forth in the formularies of any of the Reformed Churches." In the final establishment of Presbyterianism a long conflict was waged with royalty and the advocates of episcopacy, in which the name of Andrew Melville appears as the leading champion of Presbyterianism, and to him also is ascribed the authorship of the second book of Discipline. In 1592 Parliament passed an act making Presbyterianism the national religion of Scotland. But it was not until nearly a century later (1690) that the Presbyterian, as opposed to the Episcopal, form of government gained the field. In that year the Presbyterian

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Church was again established by law on the basis of the Westminster Confession of Faith (which had displaced earlier confessions in 1647) and the Presbyterian polity "as administered by general assemblies, synods, presbyteries, and kirk sessions."

Presbyterianism in Scotland at the present time is represented not only by the Church of Scotland, but by other bodies which have withdrawn from the Established Church. The United Presbyterian Church resulted from a union in 1847 of several small bodies which had separated from the State Church. The Free Church of Scotland originated in consequence of a collision between the civil and ecclesiastical powers, "the civil courts claiming not only the right to control the temporalities of the Church, but also the power to rule in spiritual affairs." The separation occurred in 1843. In 1863 an attempt was made to bring about a union of the two above-named independent bodies, but the points of difference prevented. The desire for union, however, culminated in 1900, when the union of the two Churches took place, the new body taking the name of the United Free Church of Scotland. A small number of ministers and elders opposed the union and voted to continue the Free Church.

The comparative strength of the two leading bodies in Scotland is shown by the following figures: Church of Scotland, 762,774 members; United

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Free Church, 534,950. Besides these, the following are other small bodies in Scotland: Free Church of Scotland, 8,192 members; Reformed Presbyterian Church, 930; United Original Secession Church, 3,561.

Presbyterianism in England traces its historical origin to the strong Presbyterian element in English Puritanism. Many of the Puritan leaders, to escape persecution, had spent some time on the Continent, where they had come in contact with Calvin and the Swiss reformers. The efforts of the Puritan party under this influence, from being originally mainly spent in protest against "popery," came to be more and more directed toward shaping the English Church after the Presbyterian model. The high-water mark of this movement was reached during the period of 1640-48. The Long Parliament, which assembled in 1640, was dominated by Presbyterian sentiment, and it set itself immediately to consider the question of Church reform. In 1641 it passed the famous remonstrance in which it was proposed that, "in order the better to effect the reformation in the Church, there should be a general synod of grave, pious, learned, and judicious divines who should consider all things necessary for the peace and good government of the Church." The Westminster Assembly was the outcome of this proposal. It convened in July, 1643, and sat

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

until early in 1649, during which period it met 1,163 times. The Assembly formulated a Confession of Faith—the Westminster Confession—the Form of Church Government, the Directory for Worship, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. The acts of the Assembly were approved by Parliament, and by an ordinance of that body passed in 1647 Presbyterianism was made the established religion of England. This ordinance, however, was never put into general effect, and the Westminster Confession, while adopted by the Church of Scotland, obtained only a limited recognition in England. When Cromwell came into power he threw his influence against Presbyterianism, and its disestablishment was completed with the restoration of the monarchy (1660), when the Anglican, or Episcopal, party came into power. As a result of the Act of Uniformity (1662) more than two thousand Presbyterian ministers resigned their charges or were ejected from them, and thousands of members were imprisoned or fined. Though all dissenting bodies were later given a legal standing, Presbyterianism never reached its former strength.

The Presbyterian Church of England has 84,462 members. The Presbyterian Church of Ireland has 109,748. There is also a Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland, with 3,489 members, and a small body known as the Seceder Church.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

The Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Connection, or Presbyterian Church of Wales, which is, next after the Church in Scotland, the largest Presbyterian body in the British Isles, arose as a result of a revival begun in Wales during the time of the Wesleyan revival in England. The Welsh movement had George Whitefield at its head for a time, and their societies were for many years associated with the Methodists of England. The Welsh societies were severed from the Church of England in 1811. This body has 187,575 members.

There were Presbyterian elements in the first Puritan settlers of New England. The Churches of these early colonies were not purely Congregational nor purely Presbyterian, according to the Presbyterian historian Reed ("History of the Presbyterian Churches of the World"), but represented "a Congregationalized Presbyterianism or a Presbyterianized Congregationalism." The Presbyterian elements grew stronger with the coming of fresh colonists, and the Churches of Connecticut came to be known as Presbyterian. But in the end the Congregational elements prevailed, and only those Presbyterian elements that drifted south and west became permanently a part of the Presbyterian Church. The beginnings of organized Presbyterianism were outside of New England and were probably made by Francis Makemie, an Irish mission-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ary sent out by the Presbytery of Lagan in 1681. He is called the "Father of American Presbyterianism." Rehoboth Church, in Maryland, organized about 1684, probably by Makemie, claims to be the first of American Presbyterian Churches, though the claim is contested. Makemie traversed the country from Massachusetts to South Carolina, ministering to a scattered population and meeting with much opposition on the part of an unfriendly government and much persecution at the hands of the Episcopal Church, which had been established by law in the colonies of New York, Virginia, and the Carolinas. In response to Makemie's appeal he was joined by two dissenting ministers from London, and by the end of the seventeenth century several congregations had been formed in Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The first Presbytery was organized at Philadelphia in 1706 with seven ministers. The first Synod was formed in 1716, composed of four Presbyteries, as follows: Philadelphia, with six ministers and churches; Newcastle, six ministers and churches; Snow Hill, with three ministers and churches; and Long Island, with two ministers and several churches. In 1729 the Synod adopted the Westminster Confession as a doctrinal standard. Differences on the questions of revivals and ministerial

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

education were accentuated by the visit of George Whitefield in 1739, and in 1741 a division into two parties occurred, which came to be known as Old Side and New Side. The Old Sides formed the Synod of Philadelphia, and the New Sides, or revival advocates, formed the Synod of New York. It was during the period of division that the New Sides founded the College of New Jersey (1746), now Princeton University. In 1758 the bodies reunited under the name of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia. The reunited body had ninety-eight ministers and about ten thousand members.

During the Revolution the Presbyterian<sup>ts</sup> stood boldly and actively on the side of the colonies. John Witherspoon, a Presbyterian minister, was the only clerical signer of the Declaration of Independence. After the war the Synod of New York and Philadelphia met in May, 1788, and resolved itself into the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The Westminster Confession and Catechisms were re-adopted; also a form of government, a book of Discipline, and Forms of Worship. It embraced four Synods—namely, the New York and New Jersey, the Philadelphia, the Virginia, and the Carolina—representing a total of seventeen Presbyteries, 419 congregations, 180 ministers, and about 18,000 members.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

In 1801 a plan of union was entered into with the Congregational Churches of New England, which still had a considerable Presbyterian element, by which Presbyterian ministers might serve Congregational Churches and *vice versa* and also permitted the organization of mixed Churches. Under this plan Congregationalists going West or South usually went into Presbyterian Churches. The plan also involved joint denominational agencies for missionary work. The plan of union, while it promoted the growth of Presbyterianism in the Middle West, led to a new and more serious division of the denomination. Doctrinal differences entered into the division, as well as the slavery question in a minor degree. The "Old School" wing were opposed to the coöperative plan with the Congregationalists, and they resisted what they regarded as the invasion of "strange doctrines" from New England and thought that the Church should not pronounce upon the subject of slavery. Matters came to a head in 1837, when the General Assembly, with an Old School majority, abrogated the plan of union with the Congregationalists, organized a Board of Foreign Missions, and excised four Synods in New York and Ohio. The excluded Synods organized a separate Assembly, and the division of the Church into Old School and New School Presbyterians was complete.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Further divisions occurred over the slavery question just preceding the Civil War. The Southern Presbyteries of the New School Assembly withdrew in 1857 and organized the United Synod of the Presbyterian Church. At the outbreak of the war, in 1861, the Old School Presbyteries in the South organized the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America. In 1863 a union of the two Southern bodies occurred, which in 1865 took the name of the "Presbyterian Church in the United States," now commonly called the Southern Presbyterian Church. In 1869 the two Assemblies which had resulted from the division in 1837 into Old School and New School bodies were reunited "on the basis of the standards, pure and simple."

Early in the century great revivals in Kentucky and Tennessee brought up a controversy in that section over the reception and ordination of ministers who "were neither highly educated nor firm believers in the peculiar doctrines of the Presbyterian Church." The formation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church resulted. In 1903 steps were taken looking to a reunion of the Churches. The General Assembly of the parent body had added new chapters to the Confession of Faith, "not to take the place of the Confession of Faith as a doctrinal standard of the Presbyterian Church, but to be an interpretation of it." The modification, or

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

interpretation, proved agreeable to a majority of the Presbyteries of the Cumberland Church, and the union was consummated in 1906 and 1907. (But see "The Cumberland Presbyterians," below.)

**The Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.,** is the largest Presbyterian body in the world, and its activities cover not only every part of the homeland, but it is one of the leading denominations in foreign mission work. The contributions of the Church to benevolent and other interests, outside of local expenses, amounted for the year ending March 1, 1927, to \$16,170,154. Congregational expenses for the same year, \$46,612,753. The Church maintains hospitals in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Newark, and Baltimore. At a recent General Assembly steps were taken to formulate a plan for raising \$15,000,000 as an endowment fund for old preachers.

The Church has founded or controls forty-two colleges and universities and twelve theological seminaries. The leading colleges are: Lafayette (Easton, Pa.), Lindenwood (St. Charles, Mo.), Lake Forest (Lake Forest, Ill.), James Milliken University (Decatur, Ill.), Wooster College (Wooster, Ohio), and Trinity University (Waxahachie, Tex.). The most important theological seminaries are those at Princeton, N. J., Auburn, N. Y., Pittsburgh (Western), Cincinnati (Lane), and Chicago (McCormick).

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

**The Presbyterian Church, U. S. (Southern Presbyterian).**—In 1861 the Old School Assembly, meeting in Philadelphia, adopted resolutions of loyalty to the Union and pledged the support of all its ministers and Churches to the Federal government. The action caused the Presbyterians in the Southern States to withdraw, and at a meeting held in Augusta, Ga., in December, 1861, the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America was organized. About 75,000 members, including 10,000 colored members, constituted the new body. In 1863 a union was effected with the United Synod of the Presbyterian Church. Some of the border Presbyteries and one or two independent bodies were absorbed, adding some 35,000 members. After the failure of the Confederacy, the Church took the name of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

The Southern Presbyterians have a publishing house in Richmond, Va.

The Presbyterian Church, U. S., operates thirty schools and colleges. The best known of these are the Southwestern College (Memphis, Tenn.), Agnes Scott College (Decatur, Ga.), Presbyterian College of South Carolina (Clinton, S. C.), Westminster College (Fulton, Mo.), and Daniel Baker College (Brownwood, Tex.). Theological seminaries are located at Austin, Tex., Co-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

lumbia, S. C., Louisville, Ky., Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Richmond, Va.

Church membership, 1925, 457,093. The largest membership is found in the States of North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas.

**The Cumberland Presbyterians.**—As a result of the great revival which spread over Kentucky and Tennessee during the first decade of the nineteenth century congregations developed and new ones were formed more rapidly than they could be supplied with well-equipped and ordained ministers. To meet the demand the Cumberland (Ky.) Presbytery ordained and settled many pastors who fell below the educational standards of the Church. As a result of this policy the Cumberland Presbytery was dissolved by the Synod of Kentucky (1806), of which it was a member, and its offending ministers were prohibited from preaching. On February 4, 1810, Finis Ewing and Samuel King, two of the proscribed ministers, assisted by Samuel McAdow, reorganized the Cumberland Presbytery as an independent body at the home of McAdow, in Dickson County, Tenn. The revival continued to spread; and as the Cumberland ministers were much in sympathy with it, the new body grew rapidly. In 1813 the Cumberland Synod was formed with three Presbyteries. A Confession of Faith

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

was adopted, based upon the Westminster Confession, but the doctrine of the decrees of election and reprobation were rejected. In 1842 Cumberland University was established at Lebanon, Tenn., with a theological department. Other schools were located at Waxahachie, Tex., Lincoln, Ill., Waynesburg, Pa., Marshall, Mo., and Decatur, Ill., indicating the territorial growth of the Church, and a publishing house was located at Nashville, Tenn. At the time of the reunion with the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. (1906), the Cumberland body had twenty-six missionaries in the foreign field, besides seventeen sustained by the women's board. There were at that date 114 Presbyteries, 1,514 ordained ministers, 2,869 churches, and 185,212 members. Their Church property was valued at \$7,000,000.

The reunion with the parent body, while intended to embrace the entire Cumberland body, in reality produced a division in that Church. After much litigation most of the Cumberland property passed to the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. The present Cumberland Presbyterian Church, though greatly handicapped through loss of property and the want of funds, has managed to survive the "union" and is gradually reorganizing and increasing its forces. The institutions now under the direction of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church are Cumberland

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

College, at Leonard, Tex., and Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary, at McKenzie, Tenn.

The following are the membership statistics by States of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., the Presbyterian Church, U. S., and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, as reported by the U. S. Census Bureau for 1926:

	Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.	Presbyterian Church, U. S.	Cumberland Presbyterian.
Alabama.....	6,813	22,530	4,012
Arizona.....	6,163	.....	.....
Arkansas.....	7,223	14,499	4,106
California.....	87,029	.....	340
Colorado.....	27,090	.....	.....
Connecticut.....	4,642	.....	.....
Delaware.....	6,840	.....	.....
District of Columbia.....	9,808	.....	.....
Florida.....	5,850	20,202	260
Georgia.....	2,158	29,675	318
Idaho.....	7,046	.....	.....
Illinois.....	130,278	.....	3,568
Indiana.....	66,574	.....	914
Iowa.....	68,445	.....	.....
Kansas.....	50,459	.....	.....
Kentucky.....	15,976	22,021	11,677
Louisiana.....	1,381	14,218	801
Maine.....	291	.....	.....
Maryland.....	22,169	1,929	.....
Massachusetts.....	8,437	.....	.....
Michigan.....	65,435	.....	.....
Minnesota.....	41,279	.....	.....
Mississippi.....	2,646	22,999	1,671
Missouri.....	56,590	18,593	5,452
Montana.....	8,710	.....	.....
Nebraska.....	33,343	.....	.....
New Hampshire.....	714	.....	.....
New Jersey.....	123,726	.....	.....
New Mexico.....	4,937	290	.....
New York.....	243,845	.....	.....
Nevada.....	417	.....	.....
North Carolina.....	10,975	77,691	.....
North Dakota.....	12,125	.....	.....

# HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

	Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.	Presbyterian Church, U. S.	Cumberland Presbyterian.
Ohio.....	162,797	.....	.....
Oklahoma.....	29,198	4,440	1,505
Oregon.....	21,545	.....	.....
Pennsylvania.....	370,394	.....	.....
Rhode Island.....	1,459	.....	.....
South Carolina.....	6,994	37,604	.....
South Dakota.....	12,800	.....	.....
Tennessee.....	18,960	30,777	27,791
Texas.....	33,318	45,610	5,383
Utah.....	2,218	.....	.....
Vermont.....	1,116	.....	.....
Virginia.....	2,911	63,598	.....
Washington.....	34,425	.....	.....
West Virginia.....	14,862	23,277	.....
Wisconsin.....	34,932	.....	.....
Wyoming.....	6,687	.....	.....
Other States.....	.....	1,090	140
Totals.....	1,894,030	451,043	67,938

There is a **Colored Cumberland Presbyterian** body, with 178 churches and 10,868 members, found chiefly in Alabama (5,153), Tennessee (3,182), and Kentucky (1,214).

**The United Presbyterian Church.**—This Church was organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1858, and Pittsburgh and vicinity still constitute its field of activity. It is a distinct Presbyterian body in this country, being descended by one line from the Covenanters of Scotland, and by another from the Free Church of Scotland, and the elements which formed it were mainly from Scotland. It accepts the Westminster standards, but differs from other Presbyterian bodies in opposing secret societies, observing "close" communion, and in using only the book of

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Psalms in Church music. Until 1881 instrumental music was forbidden in public worship. Statistics: Ministers, 964; churches, 922; members, 168,638, found mainly in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

**The Reformed Presbyterian Synod.**—Formed in 1743 by Scotch Covenanters. Members of this Church do not vote in political elections, neither enlist in the army nor serve on juries. On the question of these civic duties the Synod was divided in 1833, and the **General Synod of the Presbyterian Church** was formed. They are found chiefly in Pennsylvania. The two Synods have 9,920 members.

**The Associate Reformed Synod of the South** was formed in 1821 and has 19,721 members, found mainly in the Carolinas.

Other Presbyterian organizations are the **Associate Church of North America**, with less than 1,000 members; the **Cumberland Presbyterian, Colored**, having 13,079 members (membership at present unknown).

Number of Presbyterians, all bodies, in the United States (Yearbook of the Churches, 1926), 2,561,986.

Presbyterian Church in Mexico, 5,195.

Presbyterian Church in Canada, 379,762.

Church of Scotland in Canada, 10,000.

(For the Presbyterian and Reformed member-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ship of the world, see the opening paragraph of this article.)

“The Presbyterian Church stands, as it has stood during its entire history, for the unconditional sovereignty of God, for the Bible as the only infallible rule of faith and life, for simplicity of worship, representative government, a high standard of Christian living, liberty of conscience, popular education, missionary activity, and true Christian catholicity.” (Presbyterian Handbook.)

The Westminster Confession and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms form the doctrinal standards of nearly all Presbyterian bodies, but all do not agree in their interpretation of these standards. The Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., has from time to time amended and modified the Confession, though it “still is substantially as first adopted.” The most important changes were made in 1903, when six chapters of the Confession were amended and two chapters were added, bearing respectively on “The Holy Spirit” and “The Love of God and Missions.” A Declaratory Statement, issued at the same time and published in the Confession of Faith, says:

While the ordination vow of ministers, ruling elders, and deacons, as set forth in the Form of Government, requires the reception and adoption of the Confession of Faith only as containing the System of Doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures, nevertheless, seeing that the desire has been formally expressed for a disavowal by the Church of certain



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

inferences drawn from statements in the Confession of Faith and also for a declaration of certain aspects of revealed truth which appear at the present time to call for more explicit statement, therefore the Pr sbyterian Church in the United States of America does authoritatively declare as follows:

First, with reference to Chapter III of the Confession of Faith, that, concerning those who are saved in Christ, the doctrine of God's eternal decree is held in harmony with the doctrine of his love to all mankind, his gift of his Son to be the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, and his readiness to bestow his saving grace upon all who seek it; that, concerning those who perish, the doctrine of God's eternal decree is held in harmony with the doctrine that God desires not the death of any sinner, but has provided in Christ a salvation sufficient for all, adapted to all, and freely offered in the gospel to all; that men are fully responsible for their treatment of God's gracious offer; that his decree hinders no man from accepting that offer; and that no man is condemned except on the ground of his sin.

Second, with reference to Chapter X, Section 3, of the Confession of Faith, that it is not to be regarded as teaching that any who die in infancy are lost. We believe that all dying in infancy are included in the election of grace and are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, who works when and where and how he pleases.

The Presbyterian polity has the following characteristic features: The Session, which is the local Church court, consists of the pastor or a minister as moderator and one or more elders, called ruling elders, chosen from the congregation. The Presbytery consists of all ministers and one ruling elder from each congregation within a certain district. The Synod is over a group of Presbyteries and is

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

composed of ministers and elders chosen from the Presbyteries. The General Assembly completes the system and is composed of ministers and elders chosen by the Presbyteries. The General Assembly meets annually.

There is but one order in the ministry, the presbyter, or elder, who is called a teaching elder in distinction from the ruling elder, who is a layman. Candidates are ordained to the ministry and installed as pastors by the Presbytery. Deacons are lay officers in the Church charged with supervision of its temporal affairs.

---

### PROTESTANT EPISCOPALIANS

THE Church of England provided clergymen for the colonists in America, who formed parishes among them and instituted the Anglican worship. The Church of the mother country became the established religion in the colonies of New York, New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia. In Massachusetts the Anglican Church was not allowed until it came in "at the point of the bayonet" by royal proclamation. But the Church never gained the footing in New England that it held in the middle and southern colonies. The American branch of the Church during the colonial period was under the nominal jurisdiction of the Bishop of

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

London, who, however, never visited the colonies nor provided any adequate disciplinary oversight for them.

During the War of the Revolution many of the Anglican clergymen fled the country, leaving their parishes vacant. In Virginia, where at the outbreak of hostilities there had been ninety-one clergymen, only twenty-eight remained at the close of the war. But the Toryism so general among the clergy was in striking contrast to the patriotism of the larger part of their parishioners. From the body of the membership of this Church came two-thirds of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the commander in chief of the American armies, afterwards first President of the United States, and nearly all the statesmen who laid the foundation of the republic.

The Church of England in the colonies became the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. The organization of the new Church was completed at Philadelphia in 1789. The movement for the organization of a separate Church was begun at a meeting of clergymen from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, held in 1784 at New Brunswick, N. J. A call was issued for a general convention to meet the following year. State conventions were held which organized dioceses and appointed delegates to the convention. But all the

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

States were not represented in the convention, and the organization was not completed. In the meantime the clergy of Connecticut elected a bishop, the Rev. Samuel Seabury. He failed to obtain recognition by the Church of England, and in 1784 he visited Scotland, where he was consecrated by three bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Three other bishops were elected by State diocesan conventions—namely, Dr. Samuel Provoost, of New York, Dr. William White, of Pennsylvania, and Dr. David Griffith, of Virginia. Bishops White and Provoost were consecrated by the English Bishop in London in 1787. The convention of 1789 recognized the consecration of Bishop Seabury, and the Church was fully organized with bishops of the Scottish and English “succession.” A constitution was adopted and a prayer book formulated, which was essentially the same as the English prayer book. The position of the Church, as declared in the preface to the prayer book, was that “this Church is far from intending to depart from the Church of England in any essential point of doctrine, discipline, or worship.” Its identification with the English Church in the popular mind stood in the way of Episcopal progress in this country for nearly a generation. The twenty clergymen and sixteen laymen in the organizing convention of 1789 were in 1811 increased by only five clerical

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

and four lay representatives. But with the organization of dioceses in the newer Western States a missionary spirit took hold of the Church, and its expansion after 1832 was very rapid. The Episcopal convention of that year took account of about six hundred clergymen. Three years later the number had increased to 763, and in 1838 it had reached 951.

The Civil War threatened the integrity of the Church. The dioceses in the seceded States considered themselves forced to ecclesiastical separation, but declared that, "though now found within different political boundaries, the Church remains substantially one." The same view was taken by the Church in the Northern States. There was a complete reunion after the war. The formation of the Reformed Episcopal Church in 1873 produced the only permanent schism which has occurred in the history of the Church.

The doctrinal position of the Episcopal Church is based upon the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, together with the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England. The Church considers itself "a possible center and rallying point for the reunion of the widely varying forms of Protestant Christianity in America." A movement looking toward conciliation began as far back as 1853, but it did not find definite expression until 1886, when the

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

House of Bishops set forth as "an irreducible minimum" the following position as a basis for the restoration of unity among the divided forces of Protestantism: (1) The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed word of God; (2) the Nicene Creed as a sufficient statement of the Christian faith; (3) the two sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper, ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of institution and of the elements ordained by him; (4) the historic episcopate locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called by God into the unity of his Church.

The supreme judicial and legislative body of the Church is the General Convention, which meets triennially. It is composed of two houses—the House of Bishops, consisting of all the bishops of the Church, and the House of Deputies, composed of clerical and lay delegates from the various dioceses. Every measure to become a law must be passed by both houses and must receive the concurrence of both orders in the House of Deputies. Each diocese holds an annual convention composed of all the clergy and lay delegates from each parish, the resident bishop being the presiding officer. The diocesan conventions legislate for the internal affairs of each diocese under certain restrictions. Each diocese has also a standing administration



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

committee. There are three orders in the ministry—bishops, priests, and deacons. Bishops are elected by diocesan conventions, but their election must be confirmed by a majority of all the diocesan standing committees and of the bishops. The bishop resides within his diocese, licenses lay readers, ordains priests and deacons, administers the rite of confirmation to members, and is required to visit every parish in his diocese at least once in three years. The affairs of the local Church are in charge of the rector, who is chosen by the vestry of the parish, usually after conference with the bishop. The vestrymen are trustees of local Church property. Wardens have charge of the records and finances of the Church. A vestry meeting consists of the vestrymen and at least one warden.

Columbia University (originally King's College), New York, is the leading educational institution of the Church. It is nonsectarian, with the exception that its president must be a member of the Episcopal Church. Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., and Lehigh University, South Bethlehem, Pa., are other important institutions of the Church. There are about sixteen theological schools, the General Theological Seminary, New York, being the leading one. The budget of the Church for mis-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

sionary and benevolent work was \$4,036,361 in 1922.

Statistics, 1926: Churches, 7,299; communicants, 1,858,966. New York is the stronghold of Episcopalianism, having 354,700 members; followed by Pennsylvania, 191,261; Massachusetts, 141,952; and New Jersey, 130,011. Membership in the Southern States is as follows: Alabama 14,399; Arkansas, 5,872; Florida, 25,393; Georgia, 19,888; Kentucky, 12,562; Louisiana, 17,175; Mississippi, 8,761; North Carolina, 33,371; Oklahoma, 6,602; South Carolina, 18,994; Tennessee, 15,173; Texas, 32,700; Virginia, 58,403.

**The Reformed Episcopal Church** was organized in New York City December 2, 1873, with eight clergymen, including one bishop and twenty laymen. The bishop was George David Cummins, who had been assistant bishop of the diocese of Kentucky until in November of that year, when he resigned his office and withdrew from the denomination. Cummins became the first bishop of the new Church; but the Rev. Charles Edward Cheney, of Chicago, was elected Bishop of the West at the meeting in New York and was consecrated by Cummins.

The new Church justified the separation on the ground of the alleged growth of sacramentarianism and sacerdotalism in the parent body, "the substitution of the Roman dogma and rites for the . . . Reformed doctrine and Protestant liturgical wor-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ship," and it was alleged that the Protestant Episcopal Church had departed from the beliefs and practices held during the early days of American history. The new Church holds that the episcopate is not a separate order in the ministry, but that bishops are *primus inter pares*. It repudiates the dogma of apostolic succession and rejects "as erroneous and strange doctrine that the Church of Christ exists in only one order or form of ecclesiastical polity." The title of priest is rejected, and only two orders are recognized in the ministry—presbyter, or elder, and deacon.

The Church reported in 1925 two bishops, 70 ministers, 68 churches, and 8,622 communicants. The movement for reform has a considerable following in England, where the Church was introduced in 1877. The English branch had in 1910 one bishop, twenty-eight ministers, and 1,990 communicants.

---

### REFORMED BODIES.

THERE are four bodies constituting the Reformed group in this country, two of Dutch descent and two of German.

The history of the Reformed Church in Holland is the history of the Reformation in that country. Holland gave to the Reformation its first martyrs, the monks John Esch and Henry Voes having been

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

burned at Brussels in 1523 for their evangelical preaching. The Spanish rulers of the Netherlands resorted to the severest measures to crush the rising spirit of religious liberty, and under the Duke of Alva, who was sent to crush the revolt, according to Grotius, a hundred thousand Protestants lost their lives during his six years' rule (1567-73). The rise of the Dutch Republic, under William of Orange, accomplished the severance of the northern provinces from Spanish and Catholic rule and made way for the establishment of the Dutch Reformed Church. The first Synod was held at Embden, outside the Netherlands, on account of Spanish persecutions. The University of Leyden was established soon afterwards.

While the Dutch Reformation got its first impulse from Luther, the movement soon came under the influence of Calvin and the Swiss reformers. The Synod of Dort (1618-19) condemned Arminianism and adopted canons which were rigorously Calvinistic. In 1648, at the Peace of Westphalia, the Reformed faith became the established religion of Holland. The Dutch Reformed Church is a member of the Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the World Holding the Presbyterian System. The branches of this Church in various parts of the world have grown up from Dutch immigration.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

There are more than 500,000 communicants of various Dutch bodies in South Africa.

**The Reformed Church in America.**—Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam organized a Church in 1628 under the pastorate of the Rev. Jonas Michælius. This Church still exists as the wealthy Collegiate Church, with numerous buildings and fourteen ministers. Many churches erected on the Hudson by Dutch settlers are still standing after two centuries. German immigrants holding the Reformed faith and other elements have entered into the growth of the Church in America. In 1792 the Church set up an organization independent of the Church in Holland, but has continued to adhere to the standards of the parent Church. The Church gave its indorsement to the Westminster Catechism in 1837. While in polity the Church is Presbyterian, its terminology differs from the Presbyterian denominations. It has Consistories, Classes, Provincial Synods, and General Synods, corresponding to the Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies of the Presbyterians. The Church has about two hundred and twenty-five missionaries in foreign fields. It has colleges located at New Brunswick, N. J., in Michigan, and other localities. The Church is strongest in the States of New Jersey, New York, and Michigan. Statistics for 1926: Churches, 717; members, 153,739.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

**Christian Reformed Church.**—This body is a branch of a Church of the same name in Holland which separated from the State Church of Holland in 1835. In 1882 and again in 1889 its ranks were increased by the absorption of small bodies which had split off from the Reformed Church in America. It has a seminary and college at Grand Rapids, Mich. Membership, 98,534.

**Reformed Church in the United States.**—This Church, commonly called the German Reformed, was planted in America by German immigrants from the Palatinate and other districts in Germany where the Reformed faith, in distinction from the Lutheran, is held. The Church in this country was under the supervision of the Church of Holland until 1793, when an independent organization was formed. Many of the German Churches in New York went into the Dutch Reformed body; but, notwithstanding these losses, the German Reformed has greatly outstripped its sister Church in growth, due mainly to immigration. The German body is also more aggressive in home mission work. Foreign mission work is carried on in China, Japan, and in other parts. The Church has numerous schools and colleges. In doctrine and polity the German Reformed is similar to the Presbyterian bodies, and it is a member of the Presbyterian Alliance; but in government the Church is more demo-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

cratic and more rights are reserved by the congregations. The worship is more liturgical. About three-fourths of the congregations use the English language in their Church services. Statistics for 1926: Churches, 1,709; members, 361,286.

**The Hungarian Reformed.**—This body in this country is made up exclusively of Magyar, German, and Slavonic immigrants from Hungary. The Church belongs to the Alliance of Reformed Churches and is Presbyterian in doctrine and polity. Membership, 15,000.

---

### ROMAN CATHOLICS.

THE full name of this communion is "The Holy, Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church." It constitutes the largest body of Christians in existence, numbering within its fold or holding under its sway about one-half of the Christian population of the world.

The historical development of Roman Catholicism is usually divided into three stages, as follows: (1) The age of Greco-Latin Catholicism, extending from the end of the Apostolic Age, or the second century, to the eighth century; (2) the age of Latin Catholicism, as distinct and separated from Greek Catholicism, extending from Charlemagne to Luther; and (3) Modern Romanism, extending

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

from the Reformation (or from the Council of Trent) to the present time.

Concerning the first period, the historian Schaff says: "This is the common inheritance of all Churches. It is the age of the fathers, of the ecumenical creeds and councils, and of the Christian emperors." But note: "Many of the leading features of Roman Catholicism, as distinguished from Protestantism, are already found in the second and third centuries and have their roots in the Judaizing tendencies combated by St. Paul. The spirit of traditionalism, sacerdotalism, prelacy, ceremonialism, asceticism, and monasticism was powerfully at work in the East and the West, in the Nicene and post-Nicene ages, and produced most of those doctrines, rites, and institutions which are to this day held in common by the Greek and Roman Churches."

The second period witnessed the division of the Church into the Eastern, or Greek, Church, and the Western, or Roman. The Roman Church was very active during this age in bringing under its sway the tribes of Central and Northern Europe. The period is characterized also by the scholastic theological discussions, by the growth of papal absolutism, by the Crusades, and by the revival of monasticism and the rise of the mendicant orders. It was this age that gave rise to the abuses within the

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Church which brought on the Protestant Reformation.

The period of modern Romanism was ushered in by the geographical discoveries made by Catholic nations in the New World. These opened up new fields of conquest for the Church and enabled her to retrieve in a large measure the losses sustained by the Protestant secession. The missionary activity of the period accounts for the Catholic continent of South America and the extensive footing gained by the Catholics in the early history of North America. Missionary operations extended also to the Far East. As early as 1549 Francis Xavier founded missions in Japan, which grew within thirty years to number 200,000 Christians; but bloody persecutions wiped out all but a scattered remnant of these early converts. Later missions in China met a similar fate.

This extension of the sway of Rome was due to the zeal of the Jesuits, or Society of Jesus, an order founded by Ignatius Loyola about 1538. This society is also credited with preventing the collapse of the Roman Catholic Church in European countries where Protestantism had gained a foothold by originating what is known as the Catholic Counter-Reformation. The Jesuits raised the standard of education and morality, and by their enthusiasm and piety they revived the whole Church.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Their vows included an obligation to go on any mission for, or to obey any behest of, the pope, and wherever they operated they were regarded as the special upholders of the papacy and the most faithful defenders of the Catholic faith. Political intriguing led to the suppression of the society by an edict in 1773; but the order was revived in 1814. There are now about sixteen thousand Jesuits throughout the world, of whom about one-half are priests. The influence of the order may be estimated from a statement recently made by a Catholic archbishop that "the whole Church has been Jesuitized."

The Counter-Reformation, inaugurated by the Jesuits, culminated in the Council of Trent, held with intermissions from 1545 to 1563. It was convened in response to a long and widespread demand for reform in the Church "in head and members." But its belated assembling found most of the ardent advocates of real reform gone with the Protestants, and the reactionary party was left in control. Every attack on the papal power failed, as did also every effort to incorporate liberal or evangelical doctrines in the creed of the Church. The Council fixed the stigma of heresy upon Protestantism and consolidated the Church by fixing a standard of orthodoxy and accomplishing a better organization and discipline. The decisions and decrees of the Council

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

were formulated by a commission of cardinals under the direction of Pope Pius IV and were proclaimed by him in 1564 as the creed of the Church. This creed, known as the Creed of Pius IV, together with the dogmas proclaimed from the Vatican during the last century, constitutes the doctrinal system of modern Romanism.

The nineteenth century was a memorable one in Roman annals. Not only were important additions made to the Roman creed, but the position of the papacy was greatly altered. Political movements in Europe brought an end to papal temporal sovereignty by the absorption of the papal kingdom in Italy. But, on the other hand, the spiritual pretensions of the Bishop of Rome attained a recognition never before known. Pope Pius IX assumed the functions of a council and in 1854 proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, thus on his own responsibility deciding a question of belief on which the doctors of the Church were divided. In 1864 he issued an Encyclic, together with a Syllabus of Errors, "aimed at the basic ideas of modern civilization and culture." But the climax was reached in 1870—the year in which the last vestige of temporal power outside the walls of the Vatican disappeared—when a Vatican council, over the heads of strong opposition in the Church and in the council itself, ratified the decree of papal infalli-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

bility, and so fixed it as a dogma of the Church. This action is regarded as the triumph of Jesuitism.

But while recent times have seen the perfection of the ecclesiastical and creedal system of the Church, they have witnessed also the decay in position and prestige of the Church of Rome on her own ground. In Italy, until the middle of the last century, the clergy, including the religious orders, were exempt from temporal jurisdiction, and all public, educational, and charitable institutions were in their hands. But in 1866 all religious orders not engaged in teaching, preaching, or nursing the sick were dissolved and their property alienated by the State. In 1873 all Roman Catholic theological faculties in State universities were abolished. In France complete separation of Church and State became effective by legal enactment in 1906, when, among other provisions, all appropriations for public worship were repealed, and all churches, chapels, episcopal palaces, and parsonages were declared the property of the State. In Portugal there is a strong movement away from the Church. A powerful anticlerical party has developed whose program is a complete separation of Church and State. In Spain there is declared to be a gradual, silent revolt of the great body of intelligent laymen against the Roman system. "Of the four or five million adult males in the country," says Joseph McCabe in "De-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

cay of the Church of Rome," "only about one million are Roman Catholics, and these are for the most part illiterate." In Mexico there is an acute conflict between the Government and the Church, due to the policy of the Government in enforcing certain provisions of the constitution and other regulations affecting Church property, foreign clergymen, and education. All title to Church property has passed to the State; the Government has assumed control of all schools. Foreign-born clergymen—most of the Catholic clergy are foreign-born—are forbidden to officiate in churches or to teach in schools, and all monastic orders are prohibited.

But, as in the days of the Reformation, the Church is exerting itself to make up in other directions its losses at home. In Germany the Catholic revival has been very marked; but it is in the English-speaking countries, in England and her colonies and in the United States, that the Church is putting forth her greatest efforts for adherents and power.

The Roman governmental system centers in the pope, who is regarded by this communion as the supreme head of Christendom and vicar of Christ on earth. Romanists have constructed a theory of the origin of the papacy which gives it divine sanction and clothes it with unearthly authority. According to this theory, the apostle Peter was set at

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

the head of the Church by Jesus Christ and invested with the keys of the kingdom of heaven; Peter became the first bishop of the Church at Rome; and "the holy and blessed Peter . . . lives, presides, and judges to this day and always in his successors the bishops of the Holy See of Rome, which was founded by him and consecrated by his blood. Whence whosoever succeeds to Peter in this See does by the institution of Christ himself obtain the primacy of Peter over the whole Church. Hence we teach and declare that by the appointment of our Lord the Roman Church possesses a superiority of ordinary power over all other Churches. . . . This power of jurisdiction of the Roman pontiff is immediate, to which all, of whatever rite and dignity, both pastors and faithful, both individually and collectively, are bound . . . to submit not only in matters which belong to faith and morals, but also in those that appertain to the discipline and government of the Church throughout the world."\* The supreme authority of the pope, it is claimed, extends over the temporal as well as the spiritual affairs of the world. Cardinal Gibbons maintains that the temporal power is necessary for the "independence and freedom of the pope in the government of the Church. The holy father must

---

\*Schaff, "Creeds of Christendom," quoted in Foster's "Fundamental Ideas of the Roman Catholic Church."

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

be either a sovereign or a subject. There is no medium." The doctrine of the temporal sovereignty of the pope received its authoritative enunciation in the famous bull of Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam*, from which the following is quoted: "We are instructed by the Gospels that there are in his power [the pope's] two swords—viz., the spiritual and the temporal." (Reference is made to Luke xxii. 38.) "Therefore both are in the power of the Church, both the spiritual and the material sword, . . . and the temporal authority should be subject to the spiritual." The bull concludes with the declaration: "Then to be subject to the Roman pontiff we declare, say, define, and pronounce to be absolutely necessary to every human creature to salvation."

The pope resides in the Vatican at Rome, "keeping a court of about eighteen hundred persons and maintaining the Curia for the government of the Roman Catholic Church at large." By Italian law the pope is independent, and his person is sacred and inviolable, like that of the king. The honors of sovereignty are due him, and he is allowed to keep a bodyguard. Many nations send representatives to the Vatican as to a foreign nation, and the Vatican has "apostolic delegates" at many foreign capitals. The pope is elected by the cardinals, who rank next to him in honor and share with him in

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

the government of the Church. A full college of cardinals consists of seventy members. They are chosen by the pope and are consecrated by him, when they take the distinctive scarlet dress and the red cap. A majority of the cardinals live in Rome, where they are at the heads of various departments of the Church called congregations, as the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

Next in order are archbishops, who are over provinces, and bishops, who are heads of dioceses, all of whom are appointed by the pope. Priests and deacons are in charge of parishes and missions. In all matters of administration the laity are excluded. The educational and charitable work of the Church is under the control of teaching and hospital orders, of which there are a large number.

The doctrinal system of Rome, as defined by the Council of Trent, consists in a reaffirmation of the Nicene creed and ten additional articles. In this formula tradition is accorded equal authority with Scripture as a source of doctrine. The position of the Church is stated on original sin and justification; justification is by faith and works conjoined. The seven sacraments are fixed and defined—namely, baptism, confirmation, the Lord's Supper, penance, extreme unction, orders, and matrimony. The sacraments not only symbolize the grace, but they convey the grace signified. The creed affirms the

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

doctrine of transubstantiation and the sacrificial nature of the mass, the invocation of saints, the worship of relics, the doctrine of purgatory and that the souls confined in purgatory are helped in their purification by the prayers and masses of the living, the worship of images, the virtue of indulgences, the supremacy of the Roman Church and the authority of the Roman pontiff, and everything contrary to the decrees of the council are condemned and anathematized. The creed declares in effect that only those "who freely profess and truly hold the true Catholic faith can be saved." All priests and teachers of the Church, as well as all converts from other faiths, must subscribe to this creed with an oath. The two papal dogmas, that of the Immaculate Conception and of Papal Infallibility, are articles of faith and are as binding as the Tridentine Confession. The Article of the Immaculate Conception asserts that "the Blessed Virgin Mary, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Christ Jesus the Saviour of mankind, has been preserved free from all stain of original sin."

"In the veneration of saints, relics, images, and the worship of the Virgin Mary pagan Rome still lives in its ancestor and image cults and its female divinities." Mariolatry is also partly derived from the Roman theological view of Christ, which loses

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

sight of his humanity in its conception of his awful divinity, and the need became felt in the popular mind for a mediator between man and Christ. Apocryphal writings, filled with supernatural legends of the Virgin, have also contributed to the rise of her worship.

In Roman Catholic worship the mass holds the central place. The doctrine of transubstantiation teaches that the elements of bread and wine in this service are transformed into the real substance of Christ, he appearing entire in each of the elements. The sacrament is carried on with much solemnity, calculated to impress the minds of the worshipers with the feeling that the elements are supernatural. Certain orders pursue what is known as perpetual adoration of the eucharist, in which one of their number is kept in constant adoration and worship before the elements of the mass. All services throughout the world are conducted in the Latin tongue. Singing is restricted to chants by priests or choirs.

The attitude of Rome toward modern institutions was defined by Pope Pius IX in the Syllabus of Errors. Eighty "errors and heresies" are condemned, among which are socialism, communism, secret societies, Bible societies, and "other pests of this description." The principle of civil and religious liberty and the separation of Church and State



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

are condemned. The Syllabus asserts the exclusive right of the Roman Church to recognition by the governments of the world and denounces all other religions as unlawful. It declares the power of the Roman Church to enforce its system, even by coercion, and claims for Rome supreme control over education, science, and literature. Gladstone attacked this pronouncement on the ground that it was "a declaration of war against modern civilization and progress."

The spread of the Roman Catholic faith in America began when missionaries accompanied the Spanish explorers soon after the discovery of the continent. The oldest Catholic establishment in what is now the United States was planted at St. Augustine, Fla., about 1565. Soon after this missionaries preached to the Indians and founded missions in Texas, New Mexico, and California. Jesuit missionaries accompanied the French explorers down the St. Lawrence about the region of the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi basin. Catholic settlements in America by immigration began with the settlement of Maryland, the only colony settled by Catholics, in 1634. In nearly all the colonies laws were enacted against the Catholics, but full toleration came to all religions with the setting up of the nation. In 1790 the Rev. John Carroll was consecrated the first bishop for America, and Balti-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

more became his first diocese. The number of Catholics in the United States at this period has been estimated at 25,000. This number soon began to receive large accessions by immigration from Europe, and immigration has given the Roman Church in this country its largest growth. In the earlier part of the country's history the heaviest immigration was from Northern and Western Europe, including Ireland, which is almost entirely Catholic. During later years the largest influx of foreigners has been from Southern and Southeastern Europe, where the Catholic population predominates.

The following is the Roman Catholic membership by States, as reported by the U. S. Census Bureau for 1926. "Membership" includes all baptized persons on the Church rolls, which embraces the infants and children of Catholic adults:

(Roman Catholic membership).

Alabama.....	36,019
Arizona.....	96,471
Arkansas.....	24,743
California.....	720,803
Colorado.....	125,757
Connecticut.....	557,747
Delaware.....	36,696
District of Columbia.....	67,348
Florida.....	39,379
Georgia.....	17,871
Idaho.....	23,143
Illinois.....	1,352,719
Indiana.....	312,194
Iowa.....	287,066
Kansas.....	171,178
Kentucky.....	177,069
Louisiana.....	587,946
Maine.....	173,893

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Maryland.....	233,969
Massachusetts.....	1,629,424
Michigan.....	844,106
Minnesota.....	475,809
Mississippi.....	32,705
Missouri.....	517,466
Montana.....	74,222
Nebraska.....	154,889
New Hampshire.....	146,646
New Jersey.....	1,055,998
New Mexico.....	174,287
New York.....	3,115,424
Nevada.....	8,447
North Carolina.....	6,900
North Dakota.....	104,195
Ohio.....	972,109
Oklahoma.....	46,723
Oregon.....	55,574
Pennsylvania.....	2,124,229
Rhode Island.....	325,375
South Carolina.....	9,036
South Dakota.....	97,077
Tennessee.....	24,876
Texas.....	555,899
Utah.....	14,595
Vermont.....	89,424
Virginia.....	38,605
Washington.....	121,249
West Virginia.....	71,265
Wisconsin.....	657,511
Wyoming.....	18,772
Total.....	18,604,850

### OTHER CATHOLIC BODIES

**Old Catholics.**—The Old Catholics were organized in Germany in 1870 as a result of the Vatican decree of papal infallibility. The opponents of the decree, headed by Dr. Ignace von Dollinger, a Munich professor, gathered at Nuremberg and issued a protest. The leaders in the movement were

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

promptly excommunicated. An Old Catholic congress was called, which met in Munich in 1871, attended by about three hundred delegates from nearly all the countries of Northern and Western Europe. The movement spread rapidly in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, and Austria. There are members of the body also in France, Spain, Portugal, and Mexico. The dogmas of papal infallibility and of the immaculate conception are rejected, as well as the doctrine of priestly absolution. Confession, indulgences, and the veneration of saints and images have been greatly modified. Priests are allowed to marry. The Church has bishops, chosen by the clergy and people together. The chief governing body is the synod. In the United States the Church has taken root among the Polish and Bohemian populations, taking the name among the Poles of the Independent Catholic Church and among the Bohemians, particularly in Ohio, of the National Catholic Church. The Polish Catholics number about 28,000. There is also an American Catholic, with 1,150 members, and a Lithuanian National Catholic Church, having 7,343 members, both in full accord with the Old Catholic movement.

**Uniate Churches.**—These are scattered groups of Churches which acknowledge the Roman pontiff, but are permitted to retain their traditional beliefs

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

and practices. They are found mainly in South-eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa, and take different names according to the language or rite used in their worship; as the Greek, Arminian, Syrian, or Coptic in distinction from the Roman, or Latin, rite. Their priests are allowed to marry, and in other respects they differ from the customs of Rome. Their government is provided for by a special commission at Rome. Adherents of these Churches in the United States number about ten thousand, their presence being due wholly to immigration.

**Liberal Catholic Church.**—The U. S. Census Bureau reports a group of churches by this name, 39 in number, with 1,799 members, found in California, New York, and a few other States.

---

### SALVATION ARMY

THE Salvation Army is an international organization with its headquarters in London, England, whose sole purpose is "the salvation of mankind from all forms of spiritual, moral, and temporal distress." The movement was first organized as a local mission in the East End of London in 1865 by William Booth, a minister of the English "New Connexion Methodists." It spread rapidly throughout England and in 1880, as the Salvation Army, was extended to the United States, being incorporated in New York in 1899.

The Army's creed is in general Arminian, but it gives little attention to the discussion of doctrinal

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

differences, being more actively engaged in proclaiming the simple evangelical gospel and in philanthropic endeavor for the benefit of the poor and needy. The organization of its government is military in character, under the present command of General Bramwell Booth, the eldest son of the Founder and first General, William Booth. The higher command is divided into "territories," each territory generally being a separate country or colony with its own organization under the direction of a Commissioner, and each local Corps or Post is commanded by a Captain and Lieutenant. These latter officers give their whole time and are assisted by honorary officials known as "local officers," who fill the positions of Sergeant Major, Treasurer, Secretary, Bandmaster, and other offices. Local officers are drawn from the soldiers which compose a corps, as indeed are all officers of the movement.

The United States is divided into four territories, with headquarters in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, and Atlanta, Ga. Each territory maintains an Officers' Training College for men and women at its headquarters and issues two weekly periodicals, *The War Cry* and *The Young Soldier*.

Latest statistics show that there are in the United States 4,614 officers and soldiers giving full time, 22,441 local officers and bandsmen filling honorary positions. Converts during 1926 totaled 112,041. There are 1,655 corps and outposts in operation. There are 15 hospitals and dispensaries conducted by the Army,



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

which during the year under review rendered service to 56,786 patients. Other institutions include 106 industrial homes, with accommodation for 3,401 men; 97 free employment bureaus; 9 children's homes; 33 women's homes; and maternity hospitals accommodating 2,121 women. There are 79 hotels and 12 women's boarding houses. Extensive welfare work for children is carried on in many institutions, the largest being the Lytton Springs Orphanage and Industrial Farm in California, housing over 200 children.

Valuable work was conducted by the Army in prisons and local jails, 20,742 prisoners being assisted on discharge and 691 paroled to the Army in 1926. Extensive relief work is carried on; in one year 2,118,042 persons were given temporary assistance, and Christmas dinners were distributed to the number of 398,162, while 9,649 mothers and 46,982 children were given summer outings in the various fresh-air camps. Employment was found for 119,118 men and 35,764 women, and 519,617 indoor meetings and 205,321 open-air gatherings were held.

Similar activities are carried on in 82 countries and colonies.

The National Leader in America is Commander Evangeline Booth, daughter of General William Booth, with headquarters at 122 West Fourteenth Street, New York City. The Territorial Commissioners are: Richard E. Holtz, Eastern; John Mac-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

Millan, Central; Adam Gifford, Western; and William Macintyre, Southern; with headquarters at New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, and Atlanta, Ga., respectively.

**American Rescue Workers.**—A branch of the Salvation Army, formed by a number of officers who withdrew in 1882. The branch first took the name of "Salvation Army of America," but the name was changed in 1913 to American Rescue Workers. Headquarters are at Philadelphia. The organization has 97 stations, with 1,987 persons engaged in religious work. Stations are operated in thirteen States, Pennsylvania having 19, Ohio 13, and Illinois 12.

**Volunteers of America.**—This is an organization formed in New York City in 1896 by Ballington Booth, who was commander of the American work of the Salvation Army. Owing to disagreements with his father, Gen. William Booth, concerning the work in this country, Ballington Booth and his wife, Maude Ballington Booth, separated from the Salvation Army and organized the Volunteers of America. Its organization is based upon that of the United States army, and its government is more democratic. The Volunteers are more closely related to the Churches, and they administer the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and baptism. The work is among the same

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

classes and along the same lines as that of the Salvation Army, and the forces of the new organization have extended to all the principal centers of the United States. An additional feature is the Volunteer Prisoners' League for reforming prisoners, with branches in thirty State prisons. The headquarters are in New York City.

---

### SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

THESE are Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish bodies, formed as a result of secessions from the State Churches in the countries named and originating in a more evangelical tendency which developed during the last century. The churches in this country are composed entirely of immigrants from the Scandinavian countries. There are three bodies, as follows: Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America, having 33,550 members; Swedish Evangelical Free Church, with 6,208; Norwegian-Danish Free Church, 2,817.

---

### SCHWENCKFELDERS

A SMALL body of followers of Kasper von Schwenckfeld, a German religious teacher of Luther's time. About two hundred Schwenckfelders emigrated to America in 1734 and settled

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

in Pennsylvania. The sect has increased but slowly and still is found only in the counties in Pennsylvania where the first members settled.

Among the peculiar customs of the Schwenckfelders is a service of prayer and exhortation over newly born infants as they are presented at church for the first time. They are opposed to war, secret societies, and the oaths of law. They support missions at home and contribute to foreign missions through other denominations.

The body has five ministers, six churches, and 1,536 members.

---

### SOCIAL BRETHREN

THIS body was formed in Illinois after the Civil War by members of various denominations who were opposed to politics in the pulpit. "It is quite evident," says Dr. Carroll, "that the denomination was originally formed of Baptists and Methodists, the ideas of both of these denominations and some of their usages being incorporated in the new body." But Methodist beliefs and usage seem to predominate, as among their beliefs is that of the possibility of apostasy; also baptism may be by pouring, sprinkling, or immersion, and open communion is practiced. They hold that "ministers are called of God to preach the gospel and that only."

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

The body is found only in Illinois. It had in 1926 22 churches and 1,214 members.

---

### SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

FORMED in New York in 1876 by Dr. Felix Adler. Societies have since been organized in Philadelphia, Chicago, Brooklyn, St. Louis, and Boston; also in England and Germany. There is an American Ethical Union and an International Ethical Union. The purpose of these societies, as officially stated, is "to assert the supreme importance of the ethical factor in all the relations of life—personal, social, national, and international—apart from any theological or metaphysical considerations."

The American Societies have 3,801 members.

---

### SPIRITUALISTS

THE first spiritualistic "phenomena" known in this country began to occur about 1837 among the Shakers in New York, who claimed to receive communications from Ann Lee, the departed founder of the society. The first demonstrations that excited public attention were in the home of John D. Fox, at Hydersville, near Rochester, N. Y., whose daughters, the "Fox sisters," are generally credited with being the first mediums. These manifestations began in 1848. It was an era of religious unrest, of strange doctrines, visions, and miracles. Belief in

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ghosts and witches was common, and prophets were numerous. William Miller, the Adventist prophet, had summoned a doomed world to judgment, publishing proofs that the end would come about the year 1843. Only a few miles from the Fox home Joseph Smith, guided and attended by visions of angels, had brought the Mormon Bible to light. The popular mind was in a state of feverish expectancy, ready to believe any new thing. The announcement of the wonders performed by the Fox sisters attracted crowds of people to the seances, and spiritualism immediately excited widespread interest and investigation. Circles were formed, mediums discovered, and lecturers traveled and discoursed on the latest discovery.

The new mystery expressed itself in raps and knockings, moving of furniture, etc., which were interpreted as the language of the spirits of departed persons endeavoring to communicate with the living. Other methods of communication were adopted, as slate-writing. The movement became so infected with charlatanism and fraud as to be discredited by the more intelligent observers.

The study of psychology, hypnotism, telepathy, and kindred subjects has revived an interest in spiritualism, both in this country and Europe, and the subject has attained more respectability on ac-



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

count of some of the eminent scientists and investigators whose interest it has engaged.

Spiritualists in this country have formed themselves into societies, with national and State associations, and have issued a statement of beliefs. Their central tenet is a belief in the actuality of spiritual communications. They deny the personality of God, holding that God is an infinite intelligence expressed by the physical and spiritual phenomena of nature. They reject the doctrine of the Trinity, the deity of Christ, and the supreme authority of the Scriptures. They believe in the conscious existence of the spirit after death and in eternal progress. In common with the Universalists, they believe that every individual will attain to supreme wisdom and happiness. They have ordained ministers, lay ministers, and associate ministers, or mediums. They have a ritual for use in public meetings, baptisms, funerals, etc.

The National Spiritualists' Association is the leading body of Spiritualists in this country. It was organized in 1893 and has its headquarters in Washington, D. C. The Association is composed of 543 churches, with a membership of 41,233 (U. S. Census Report, 1926). Massachusetts has 11,805 members; New York, 6,244; Illinois, 4,040; Pennsylvania, 2,791; Michigan, 2,152; Ohio, 2,554; California, 2,111; Texas, 1,123.

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

The Progressive Spiritual Church has 9 churches, with 7,383 members.

The National Spiritual Alliance has 59 churches and 2,015 members.

---

### THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES

HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY, a Russian woman, founded the first Theosophical Society in New York in 1875. Its avowed objects were: (1) To form the nucleus of a universal brotherhood of humanity; (2) to study and teach the ancient religions, philosophies, and sciences; (3) to investigate the laws of nature and to develop the divine powers latent in man. Madame Blavatsky wrote a book, called "The Secret Doctrine," which sets forth her principles, now known as Theosophy. She professed to have received instructions from unseen Masters. Accompanied by a disciple, she went to India and established several branches in that country. Societies have been formed also in England and in other parts of the world.

The American Theosophical Society has 223 lodges, with a membership of 7,448. California leads, with 1,148 members. Illinois has 860 members and New York, 662.

---

### UNITARIANS

"UNITARIANISM," to quote a Unitarian author, "is, in general, the religious system of all who affirm the

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

unity of God. Specifically, it is the belief of certain free Christian Churches and individuals whose religious faith is 'the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, the leadership of Jesus, salvation by character, and the progress of mankind onward and upward forever.' " Unitarianism is popularly known only in its negative aspects, in its rejection of the orthodox views of the Trinity, the person of Jesus Christ, and of the authority of the Bible.

Unitarians point to the Arian views of Jesus, as held in the early Church, as essentially in harmony with the modern Unitarian position. Unitarianism may be traced to the Reformation period, when in the theological ferment of the times anti-Trinitarian views gained a following. Michael Servetus, in the West, assailed the doctrine of the Trinity and was burned at the stake in Geneva in 1553. But it was Faustus Socinus, coming from Italy and settling in Poland in 1575, who became the chief exponent of Unitarian doctrines. The central point in the Socinian creed was denial of the divinity and atonement of Jesus Christ. At the close of the sixteenth century there were more than four hundred Socinian churches in Poland. By 1670, however, Unitarianism had been suppressed in Poland by the accession of a Catholic king and the adherents of the faith put to death or exiled.

In the eighteenth century Socinian views leavened

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

many Presbyterian and Baptist Churches in England as well as many of the clergy of the Church of England. It was from these communions that the first Unitarian Churches were formed. In 1911 there were two hundred and ninety-five Unitarian churches in England, seven in Scotland, thirty-four in Wales, and thirty-eight in Ireland, the Churches in Wales and Ireland having been formerly Presbyterian.

Unitarian opinions were held by many of the Puritan settlers of New England, and a majority of the early Massachusetts Churches finally went over to the Unitarian faith. King's Chapel, in Boston, the first Episcopal church established in New England, in 1787 excluded from its prayer book all references to the Trinity and to the deity of Jesus Christ, and, ordaining for its pastor James Freeman, a reader who had adopted Unitarian views, the Church became the first Unitarian society in America. During the early part of the nineteenth century the Unitarian controversy—or the Calvinistic controversy, according as one views it—unsettled many of the Congregational Churches in Massachusetts. The Unitarians directed their criticisms mainly against the Calvinistic view of man's fallen nature. In 1805 a Unitarian was appointed to the divinity chair of Harvard College, and that institution came completely under the control of liberal

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

views. In 1819 William Ellery Channing preached a sermon at the dedication of a Unitarian church in Baltimore which, on account of its "moral argument against Calvinism," became a Unitarian classic. Within a year one hundred and twenty Congregational Churches in New England, among them Plymouth Church, founded in 1620, went over to Unitarianism.

The Unitarians as a denomination have rejected all suggestions of creed-forming; but the National Unitarian Conference has declared that "these Churches accept the religion of Jesus, holding in accordance with his teaching that practical religion is summed up in love to God and love to man." Unitarian congregations usually adopt the following covenant: "In the love of truth and the spirit of Jesus Christ we unite for the worship of God and the service of man." Unitarians are generally in agreement on the doctrines of the "pure humanity of Jesus," and his "leadership" is accepted, he being "a supreme instance of man's religious experience of God and an inspiring prophet of a free and spiritual religion of love to God and man." It is the faith *of* Jesus that is held rather than faith *in* Jesus. The Bible is not a final and infallible guide in religious truth, but "a classic record of man's religious experience," and is to be interpreted in the light of reason and conscience. "It is not proper to say that

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

we reject the Bible," says a Unitarian minister, "as it is not proper to say that we reject a fish because we discard the bones." Unitarians reject the orthodox doctrines of the fall of man, of the natural corruption of his nature, and of the atoning or sacrificial character of the death of Christ as a means of man's recovery. They discover no need of a mediator between God and man. But they affirm the natural dignity of human nature and the kinship of man to God. Salvation is the enjoyment of communion with God, "the soul fulfilling its destiny of enjoying the constant indwelling presence of God with a consciousness like that of Christ." It is to be sought and gained "through the exercise of the soul's highest powers and the repression of all low desires."

Unitarians are credited with 353 churches and 60,152 members. The body has theological schools at Meadville, Pa., and Berkeley, Calif. The Harvard Divinity School was Unitarian from 1817 to 1878, since which time it has been undenominational. About one-half of the Unitarian membership of the country is in Massachusetts. New York, California, New Hampshire, and Maine each has a large membership.

---

### UNITED BRETHREN

THIS denomination is often confounded with the Moravian Brethren, or *Unitas Fratrum*; but the two



## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

bodies are separate and distinct. While they bear similar names and both originated among German people, the *Unitas Fratrum* originated in Moravia and the United Brethren arose in the United States, although the former had a footing in this country more than half a century before the latter organization took its rise.

Philip William Otterbein came to America in 1752 as a missionary of the German Reformed Church. Soon afterwards he obtained what he regarded as his first Christian experience, and his ministry took on a deeply spiritual and evangelistic character. Revivals followed his preaching, and he was joined by many of his converts in extending the work. The movement continued to spread, and, on account of opposition to the work in his own Church, conferences were called to provide means for conserving the results. At a conference held in Frederick County, Md., in 1800 a Church organization was formed, taking the name of the United Brethren in Christ. Otterbein and Martin Boehm were elected bishops. In 1815 a general conference was held, at which a discipline and a Confession of Faith were adopted. During the first years of the movement the work was confined mainly to the German people of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland; but in later years the Church spread westward and was extended among English-speak-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

ing people. Now the German language is used in only about four per cent of the congregations.

The founders of the United Brethren Church were in intimate association with the pioneers of Methodism in America. Otterbein assisted at the ordinations of Methodist ministers at the Baltimore Conference in 1784, and in his evangelistic labors he preached the same doctrines and proceeded in much the same way as the Methodist preachers. In doctrine and polity the Church which he organized is Methodistic, and the body is represented in the Methodist ecumenical councils. The Church has bishops, presiding elders, exhorters, class leaders, and stewards; also quarterly, annual, and general conferences. Bishops are elected for a four-year tenure. Since 1889 women are eligible for the ministry. But one order of ministers, that of elder, is recognized. The mode of baptism is left to the choice of the candidate. Foot-washing is practiced, but is not generally observed. Ministers are appointed to their charges by a stationing committee, and presiding elders are elected by the annual conferences.

A new constitution and a revised Confession of Faith were adopted by the General Conference in 1889. Provision was made for lay representation in the General Conference, and a rule was set aside forbidding membership in secret societies. A bishop

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

and fourteen delegates, taking offense at the new constitution, withdrew from the body and organized another General Conference, which claimed to represent the sentiment of the Church. The division extended throughout the Church. Litigation over property division followed, resulting in a decision against the seceding body. The Churches are now known as the "New Constitution" and the "Old Constitution" branches. The New Constitution body has foreign missions in Germany, Japan, Canada, and Africa, ten colleges, and a theological seminary and a publishing house at Dayton, Ohio. The Church is divided into about fifty Annual Conferences and mission districts, has 2,998 churches and 377,436 members. The headquarters of the Old Constitution Church are at Huntingdon, Ind., where they have a college and publishing house. This branch has 372 churches and 17,772 members.

The United Brethren are strongest in the States of Ohio (86,945), Pennsylvania (81,729), Indiana (65,807), Illinois (24,402), West Virginia, Virginia, and Kansas, although they are represented in twenty other States.

---

### UNIVERSALISTS

THE Universalists as a religious denomination are a decadent body. The reports for 1912, the latest figures obtainable, compared with the census reports of 1906, show a decrease in number of organi-

## HNADBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

zations of two hundred and forty-seven. There has been a slight increase in membership during the period. But, according to a Universalist writer, "that the course of the Church as a separate body is nearly run is a not uncommon opinion." On the other hand, it is claimed that Universalist opinion is largely on the increase and that there are more Universalists outside the denomination than inside. The claim is made that all Christian Scientists hold the Universalist doctrine; that the same is true of more than one-half of the Unitarians, one-third of the Episcopalians, and many Congregationalists; and that there are numerous believers in this doctrine in nearly all denominations. It is known that all the British and Continental Unitarians are also Universalists in opinion.

Universalists, while holding a great variety of doctrines, are agreed in the belief that all souls will be finally reconciled to God and made righteous. This universal salvation is to be accomplished by Jesus Christ, the great revealer of God, whose work in the world is to bring men into harmony with God. There is no place found in Universalist theology for a satisfaction theory of Christ's death or for a work of atonement. Salvation is not exemption from the consequences of sin, but from the disposition to sin. Punishment is an inevitable sequence of sin, is divinely appointed, and is remedial

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

and beneficent; whence it follows that it cannot be endless, for endless punishment would be vindictive. Souls that are not made holy in this life will be visited by punishment and discipline in the next life, calculated, as it is in the present life, to recover and to restore the soul. It is held that there are many "losing fights" in this life and that souls are "lost" in the sense of being excluded after death, as here, from the presence of God; but it is maintained that the soul "will fight until it wins" and that throughout its conflict it will have the assistance of the heavenly powers.

The Winchester Profession of Faith, adopted at Winchester, N. H., in 1803, sets forth the essential principles of the Universalist faith as embracing

1. The universal fatherhood of God.
2. The spiritual authority and leadership of his Son, Jesus Christ.
3. The trustworthiness of the Bible as containing a revelation from God.
4. The certainty of just retribution for sin.
5. The final harmony of all souls with God.

During the first one hundred years Universalist churches were independent and congregational. Since 1870 a general convention, which meets biennially, has had authority to govern the Churches in matters of fellowship, ordination, and discipline. There are now also State conventions, meeting an-

## HANDBOOK OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

---

nually. A system of State and general superintendency has been adopted. The sacraments are observed, the mode of baptism being left to the choice of the candidate. The denomination carries on missionary work in Japan and maintains four colleges and five academies, also three theological schools.

There are at present 493 churches and 54,957 members, found mainly in New York and Massachusetts, with Maine, Illinois, and Ohio next in membership. Steps have been taken on both sides looking to a union with the Congregationalists, which may soon eliminate the Universalist body entirely from the list of religious denominations.

---

### VEDANTA SOCIETY

THIS was formed in New York in 1898, based upon doctrines of a Hindu philosophy, as promulgated in a series of lectures given in New York by a visitor to the World's Parliament of Religions, Chicago World's Fair, 1893. Societies for the study and dissemination of the Vedanta religion or philosophy have been formed also in Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Membership, 350.







1 1012 01225 3250

[illegible]





